



ARNOLD & MABEL

BECKMAN
FOUNDATION

PARRIS ISLAND 1918

ARNOLD BECKMAN
PREPARES FOR
THE GREAT WAR



**“I CERTAINLY LEARNED THE MEANING OF
THE WORD DISCIPLINE; IN BOOT CAMP THEY
ENFORCED THAT TO THE NTH DEGREE.”**

Arnold O. Beckman



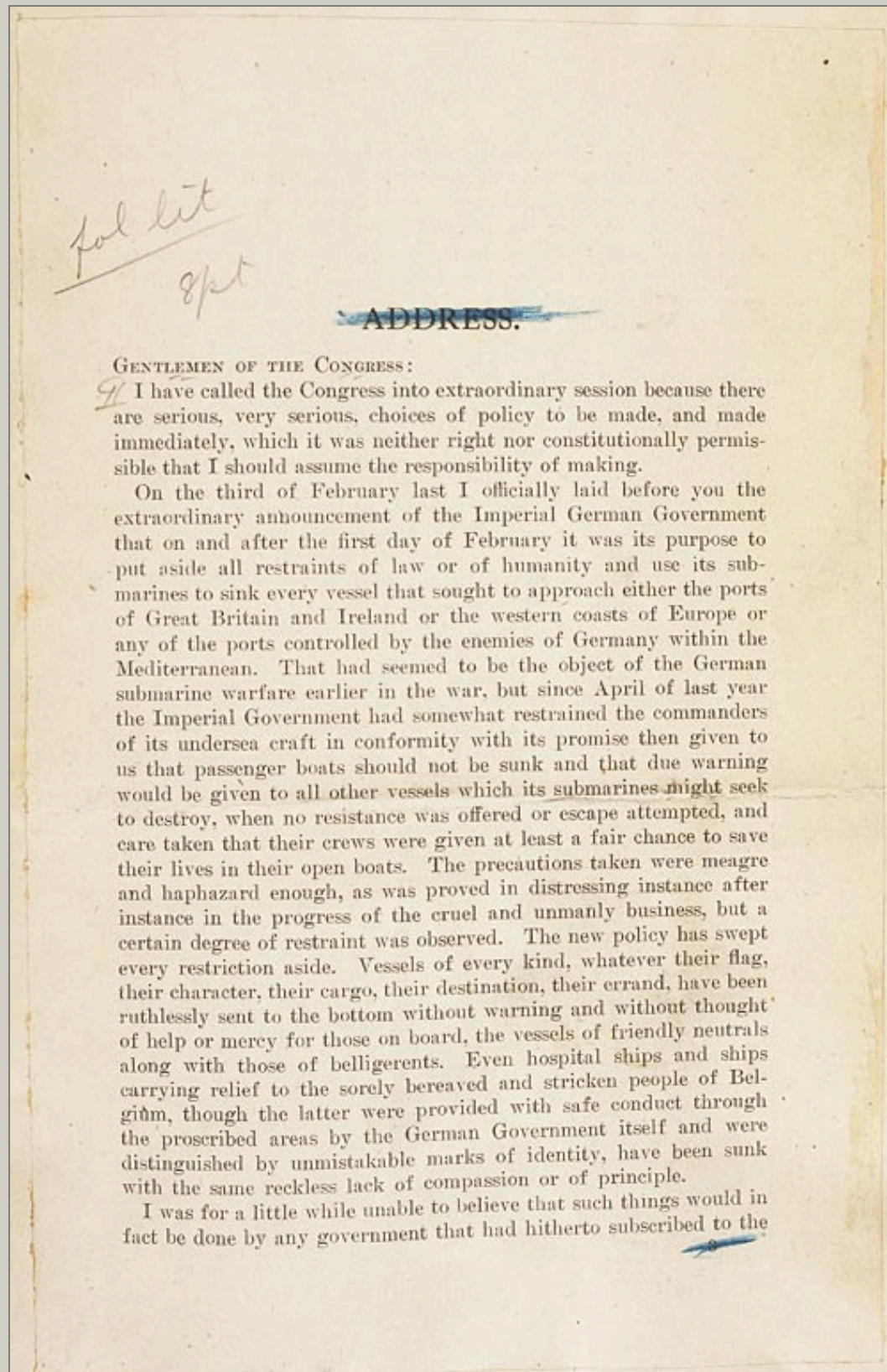
From Arnold O. Beckman: One Hundred Years of Excellence
by Arnold Thackray and Minor Myers, Jr.



In 1914, Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary, and his wife Sophie, in Sarajevo, Bosnia. This set off a global conflict known as World War I, or The Great War, that claimed the lives of an estimated 15-20 million soldiers and civilians.

"Wreckage after bomb explosion in Sarajevo." (Top) "Arrest of Govrilo (sic) Princip." (Bottom). July 18, 1914. Arizona Republican (Phoenix, AZ), Image 6. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.





The United States did not initially join the war, remaining neutral and engaging in business with both sides. However, when a German U-boat sank the Lusitania, a ship carrying many American passengers, and later several U.S. ships, President Wilson called upon Congress with a declaration of war. In April 1917, the U.S. officially joined the Allied Powers in the fight against Germany and the Central Powers.

President Wilson's Declaration of War Message to Congress, April 2, 1917; Records of the United States Senate; Record Group 46; National Archives.





Embroidered satin service banners with wood dowels and gold rope hangers; (l to r) "Infantry" for Fred, "U.S. Navy" for Roland, and "Marine" for Arnold. *Beckman Foundation Collection*

In 1918, Arnold Beckman graduated high school as class valedictorian. The youngest of three sons in the Beckman family, he was the last to join military service when he enlisted in the Marines. His brother Fred served with the Army, and his brother Roland served with the Navy.



Arnold's first stop: Boot camp. He was sent to Parris Island, South Carolina, for training exercises. In just a few short months, he needed to be combat ready and shipped out overseas for active service. Barely out of school, he was about to step squarely into adulthood.

Eighteen-year-old Arnold Beckman, as an enlisted Marine during World War I, holds his rifle during boot camp. *Beckman Foundation Collection*





Left: A man at a Marine recruiting station.
Above: New Marine recruits take an enlistment oath, as
Arnold Beckman did. Both images, circa 1918.
Credit Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island Centennial
Celebration Book.





Parris Island Recruit Barracks, circa 1917.
Credit Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris
Island Centennial Celebration Book.



Rope climbing at Parris Island, 1918.
Credit Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris
Island Centennial Celebration Book.



Training at the rifle range, circle 1918.
Credit Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris
Island Centennial Celebration Book.

