In 1915, the largest Rotary Club in the world was the Buffalo, New York club with 407 members; however membership numbers in Rotary would soon become irrelevant as the war exploded in Europe. The United States entered the war in April of 1917 and this club’s attention and conversation turned to ways to help in the war effort. An unnamed Rotarian spoke on the entry into war: "Yes, Uncle Sam is warming up and after he goes in, we’ll be building baseball diamonds in the city of Berlin."

Local Rotarian W.M. Cosby handled the first Y.M.C.A. War Fund Campaign, and Rotarian J.W. Donnelly handled the campaign for funds for the War Library. George Gordon Crawford helped handle the local Red Cross campaign. These efforts were outside the efforts of the club itself. By November of 1917, the Board of Directors passed a motion to "approve the recommendation from the Entertainment Committee that, out of respect for the National Food Conservation Movement and the devotion of time and money to the innumerable worthy causes occasioned by the War, Ladies Night will not be held. At the same time, motions were passed that ordered all members of Rotary to continue to subscribe to the various humanitarian movements occasioned by the War."

By the time Uncle Sam was raising money to "Help Whip The Kaiser", our Rotary Club was beginning to participate in the then called National Baby Bond Campaign, a campaign for the sale of two billion dollars of U.S. Bonds. In Alabama, it was a request of every man, women and child in the state to buy 20 dollars worth of these Bonds. Rotarian Crawford Johnson was State Director of this and other appeals. Requests went to members to volunteer for Red Cross work and the Red Cross Campaign: In an appeal to members of this club to get more involved in the war effort, a statement went out to Birmingham Rotarians – "Let me call your attention in this respect to that poster issued by the United States Government, representing Uncle Sam pointing his finger at YOU!" He needs your help.

Next Week---More war effort on the part of this club.