

the combined navies of all other nations. We are to have thousands of planes flown by our aviators over the seven seas. Many more airplane carriers are being built and will be built. Each of the above enumerated trends indicates the increasing importance that ability to swim may play in the lives of our young men who are and who will be in the service.

We have been impressed, in reading daily news reports describing the action in the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, by the number of our young men, sailors, and aviators, who had to swim varying distances in order to save their lives. In such situations as leaving a sinking ship or getting into a rubber boat from a fallen plane, ability to swim may determine whether or not the sailor or aviator will survive to fight another battle.

If youngsters can be taught to swim in civilian life more time can be devoted to other areas of their training when they are inducted into service. Many Missouri communities have excellent pools where our young men might be taught to swim. Special classes could be organized and taught by volunteer personnel without charge. Directors and managers of pools might organize swimming classes in which instruction and admission to the pool would be free to those individuals who expect to be inducted into the service within a year.

Many school, colleges, and universities which are operating during the summer months could establish classes for beginners and novices in swimming, in order that they meet certain minimum standards in swimming. There are more than a hundred school, municipal, and private pools in Missouri all of which could be