

Looming above civilian activity because of its war significance, first aid and water safety training of army and navy instructors became a major task. Red Cross field representatives trained thousands of instructors in the armed forces. These men in turn instructed military personnel. Special functional swimming and water safety courses prepared soldiers to take care of themselves in amphibious operations when loaded down with full equipment. Pre-induction civilians, too, received training.

WEATHERING THE STORM

MIDWEST floods and southwest tornadoes swelled the number of national disasters to above average. Feeding, clothing, housing, and medical care were supplied with dispatch. All chapters maintained their service units in readiness to meet natural disaster of all types—storm, flood, fire—and to assist local emergency defense councils with civilian aid in case of enemy action, in accordance with agreements with the federal Offices of Civilian Defense and Defense Health and Welfare Services.

Government services cooperated as always in providing the Red Cross with advance storm warnings, in furnishing army cots, blankets, and other emergency supplies, and the several departments offered other aid as called for under special circumstances.

Rehabilitation continued as an important part of this service. This included not only repair and restoration of homes and household effects, but long-time hospitalization in many cases, and vocational training. The issuing of pri-

