

BY 1940 the words "Hoan" and "mayor" had become synonyms to most Milwaukeeans. Hardly anyone under 30 could remember ever having seen another mayor in office. Daniel W. Hoan had been mayor an unprecedented 24 years.

Then a fair haired, blue-eyed boy came singing and smiling his way into Milwaukee's heart. He was Carl F. Zeidler, a barber's son—born, raised and schooled in Milwaukee. This was the youthful David who was to fell "Goliath" Hoan.

More than 6 feet tall, broad shouldered, with finely turned* features and a pinkish, baby smooth complexion, Zeidler was the sort of youth to make a "bobby sockser" squeal.

As a schoolboy he had sold *Journals* and had been chief justice of the Newsboys' Republic. While going to West Division high school and Marquette university he had earned his way by "punching" freight for the Milwaukee road and working in a gasoline service station. He worked his way through Marquette law school as an insurance claim adjuster. He had an appealing voice which was heard often in chorus, quartet and solo work in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, to which he belonged, and in other churches and clubs.

When "national defense" became the watchword, he promoted recruiting campaigns for the flying cadets, the army and the navy. He sang *God Bless America* at rallies and on the radio so often that he was said to have sung it publicly more than any other American except Kate Smith. He organized a civilian defense corps which was reorganized into a county council of defense and reached a strength of 66,055 workers by March, 1943.

But organizing other people to fight the war was not enough for Carl Zeidler after the Pearl Harbor attack Dec. 7, 1941. In February, 1942, he went to Great Lakes naval station and applied for a commission. He passed his examinations and became a lieutenant, junior grade, in the naval reserve early in April. This meant surrendering his \$12,300 a year job for one at \$3,000 a year. Ald. John L. Bohn, council president, became acting mayor. He was elected for a four year term in 1944.

When Zeidler left for South Boston, Mass., to enter training Apr. 16, 1942, the second anniversary of his inauguration, more than 20,000 crowded around the station to see him off, although no public celebration had been planned.

In June he left for an undisclosed port to take command of the gunnery crew on a merchant ship. The ship on which he served, the *La Salle*, left the canal zone Sept. 26 bound for Cape Town, South Africa, and was never heard from again. The navy officially declared him dead Nov. 8, 1944.

His family still clung to the hope that he might somehow have reached shore, perhaps in the jungle country of South America, and would some day find his way back to Milwaukee again. But as the months passed and the war ended, it became ever more certain that young Carl Zeidler must be counted among the more than 1,900 men and women of Milwaukee county who died to keep Milwaukee and America free.

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THE POINTER

July 21, 1944

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Bronze Star Medals Go To Two AGs

Shipmates in an Armed Guard gun crew aboard a vessel bombed and sunk at Bari, Italy, last December, Rodney J. Ruddiman, Sic, of Arlington, Mass., and Horace W. Anderson Jr., GM3c, Dover, N.J., stood side by side again last Saturday, July 15, at Captain's inspection on the main drill field to become the first enlisted AGs to receive the Bronze Star Medal, new service decoration established early this year.

Although both had been injured in the attack and their ship was afire and sinking, Ruddiman and Anderson remained at battle stations until all guns were out of commission. Ruddiman then raced through the blaze below decks to return with blankets for other injured personnel.

Aware of the limited space in the only undamaged lifeboat available, the two bluejackets then volunteered to swim from the crippled ship to a seawall in the harbor to make room for others they regarded as more seriously injured than they. Ruddiman and Anderson received the Purple Heart Medal last month.

The Bronze Star was authorized in an executive order by President Roosevelt in February to anyone in the armed services who distinguishes himself by heroic or meritorious achievement against an enemy of the United States.

The medal takes precedence next after the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and next before the Air Medal and Purple Heart. The ribbon bar is Old Glory red with an eighth-inch stripe of royal blue in the center with white piping on either side of the blue and at the edges of the bar.

A PLAQUE WAS
DEDICATED IN MEMORIAL
GARDENS - MILWAUKEE
10/12/91 by the
ILLINOIS - WISCONSIN
ARMED GUARD

Other awards presented by Comdr. J. M. Young during the inspection were the Purple Heart Medal to William E. Carley Jr., GM3c, Huntington, L.I., N.Y.; the Commendation Ribbon to Creal J. Gibson, SM2c, Jersey City, N.J., and a letter of commendation to Elmer A. Voss, GM2c, Haron, S.D.

*We have located the
O'Brien. Help locate
the others.*

Brothers Gain Same Citations Silver Star To Lt. McIlwaine

The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Lieut. Robert H. McIlwaine of Lakeland, Fla., and identical letters of commendations were presented to two brothers who have served side-by-side in the Navy for 21 months at Captain's Inspection Oct. 23.

Eston C. O'Brien, 19, and brother Roger T. O'Brien, 20, both Sic from Newton, N.J., gained their citations for their performance in a gun crew that dispersed eight separate aerial attacks.

These commendations were from the Chief of Personnel, as were letters to Donald E. Roberts, Cox, Pasadena, Tex.; Nathaniel L. Miles, Cox, Baltimore, Md., and Charles R. Allen, Sic, Youngstown, O.

* Now: VENICE, Fla.