World War II

The Atlanta Chapter began preparations for World War II in 1939. Dr. Frank Boland, who served as a Major in the Emory Medical Unit during World War I, was Chapter Chairman. Along with Executive James H. Reeves and Assistant Executive Director Mrs. John S. McDonald, Dr. Boland led a series of rapid developments leading up to wartime.

The Atlanta Chapter was involved in various ways:

1. **Home Front Activities**
   - **First Aid and Accident Prevention Committee** set up highway emergency groups, and trained thousands in First Aid and scene-saving.
   - Students at several high schools received a 30-hour course in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick.
   - The Atlanta Camp and Hospital Committee was formed to collect gifts from the public and distribute them to servicemen.
   - The Atlanta Red Cross filled the bags with articles donated by civilian groups. Servicemen would hang their ditty bags near their bunks to store treasured possessions in them.
   - The Atlanta Chapter was also responsible for making robes, pajamas, clothing or just chatting, making them feel at home in a strange city.
   - Ms. Mitchell, although famous for writing "Gone With the Wind," was always exasperating - just "Peggy" to all who knew her. Her death in 1949 was a great loss for the Red Cross.

2. **Medical Services**
   - The Production Services branches accepted orders for 8,750 surgical dressings in addition to normal production.
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3. **Red Cross Activities**
   - The Red Cross opened a recreation room at the Army-Air Force Induction Center near Lawson Hospital. There were sponges, afghans, and many other articles for the servicemen.
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4. **Canteen Service**
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5. **Blood Donation and Plasma Services**
   - The Red Cross offered a "Donor Day" program at the Atlanta Chapter where blood donors could donate plasma.
   - The Atlanta Chapter opened a recreation room at the Army-Air Force Induction Center near Lawson Hospital. There were sponges, afghans, and many other articles for the servicemen.
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6. **Disaster Preparedness**
   - A Civilian Defense Volunteer Office was formed to allow the Chapter to take responsibility for housing, feeding, clothing, and transportation of families affected by bombing.
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7. **War Brides**
   - One of the biggest supporters of the Atlanta Chapter during wartime was author Margaret Mitchell, known as "Peggy" by her friends. She was a member of the Atlanta Chapter and was a member of the Speakers Bureau.
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8. **Nursing Service**
   - The Nursing Service recruited and trained nurses who served in Georgia, Louisiana, and North Carolina.
   - A terrible polio epidemic broke out in June 1949. Polio is a disease that causes damage to the spinal cord and partial paralysis.
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9. **Food Services**
   - The Atlanta Chapter focused on foods well known in the South.
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10. **Blood Donation and Plasma Services**
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11. **Other Activities**
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