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Common Cause: A History of the World War II Home Front

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Gettysburg College

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Common Cause: A History of the World War II Home Front

Description

In excerpts drawn from [Musselman Library's Oral History Archive](#), the World War II years are recalled by dozens of the men and women—adults, teenagers, children—who endured them on the home front. The home front experience was by turns exhilarating, fearsome, depressing, and banal. Some civilians had it relatively easy, while others had it hard. Righteous confidence was offset by looming uncertainty, patriotism was often buttressed by bigotry, and the joys of victory and reunion were shadowed by irreplaceable losses. In this volume, the speech of ordinary citizens in extraordinary times is augmented by abundant illustration, much of it in color—photographs, posters, artifacts, and other evocations of a past that still fascinates us. Through word and image, in tones of humor, warmth, anger, and sadness, *Common Cause* brings back the unique features of American life at that time, and the daily reality of being a nation at war.

Keywords

World War II, Oral History, Gettysburg College, Adams County History

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Musselman Library

COMMON CAUSE

An Oral History of the World War II Home Front



Edited by
Devin McKinney and Michael J. Birkner

COMMON CAUSE

An Oral History of the World War II Home Front

Gettysburg
COLLEGE

Cover: *A blue-star flag hung during the war by the Troxell family of Gettysburg.*

End Pages: *Wartime ration stamps belonging to Donald C. Haynes.*

COMMON CAUSE

An Oral History of the World War II Home Front

Edited by
Devin McKinney and Michael J. Birkner

Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, 2018

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Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

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HIGH TIDE AND
TORPEDES CAN'T
STOP THE MAIL

FOR

Four horizontal lines for an address, enclosed in a red border.



*The Virginia
Memorial,
c. 1940.*

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Gettysburg in the 1940s, looking northwest from the Observation Tower on Cemetery Hill.



– PREFACE –

This book is drawn from the Musselman Library Oral History Archive at Gettysburg College, a collection of some 1,500 interviews conducted over nearly three decades. Hundreds of these are accessible through the library website, with many more held in the Rosenberger Reading Room of the College Archives. The collection continues to grow, with many new documents added each year.

Most interviews have been done by Gettysburg College students under the aegis of Prof. Michael Birkner's Historical Methods class. A perennial assignment has been to initiate, research, conduct, and transcribe an oral history with an individual – sometimes a family member, but usually a stranger. Interviews have focused on topics of regional, national, and global significance: the history of Gettysburg College; the history of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; the building of the Lincoln Highway; making a life in post-war America – and the World War II era, as recalled by both veterans and civilians on the home front.

In selecting the excerpts for this book, we sought vividness, specificity, and the telling personal detail. In compiling them, we sought a comprehensive picture of the home front experience. In editing them, finally, we sought readability and flow – which is to say that most of the hesitations, repetitions, and sentence fragments preserved in the original transcripts have been excised. Nowhere does this have the effect of altering a speaker's meaning. It is done only to allow the clear line of a recollection – that vivid, specific, telling detail – to emerge more sharply. Let us say that the underbrush has been cleared, so that we may better appreciate the tree.

Care was also taken to preserve tones of humor, warmth, sadness, and anger. The war years at home were, as you'll discover, by turns exhilarating, fearsome, depressing, and banal for those who endured them. Some civilians had it relatively easy, while others had it hard. Righteous confidence was offset by looming uncertainty, patriotism was often buttressed by bigotry, and the joys of victory and reunion were shadowed by irreplaceable losses. To suggest anything simpler would be to devalue the meaning of these experiences, of a war that changed history, and of history itself – history which, as Americans, we all share, if only as its inheritors.

It's that history, as well as those who lived it, that we've sought to honor here.

Devin McKinney
Special Collections and College Archives
Musselman Library, Gettysburg College

– INTRODUCTION –

World War II was the first total war in history. “Total war” meant total effort, by civilians and soldiers alike. It also meant that innocent people on battlefronts were vulnerable. Millions of civilians, in fact, suffered, and millions more died in the line of fire. The war was a dreadful experience, an indelible element of it relating to the systematic extermination of six million Jews by Adolf Hitler’s loyal subordinates.

Americans were not in the line of fire during the “good war,” as it has become known. It was referred to as a good war because Americans were fighting for a just cause – freedom – against an evil enemy. It was also good because World War II brought better times to America, materially speaking, after a decade of economic travail.

In 1941 there were still nine million unemployed Americans. By 1943, virtually no one who sought work was unemployed. Moreover, the federal government was vigorously attempting to persuade women to work in defense plants for the nation’s sake. Two million women had heeded this call in 1942. Another three million would do so subsequently. By August 1944, over 18 million women were in the general workforce, nearly twice as many as in 1941. This was a remarkable development, and a foretaste of things to come.

As a result of mobilization – and the ongoing efforts to build a team spirit and acceptance of at least small personal sacrifices for the cause – the whole outlook of the nation changed. As late as 1939, unemployed “Okies” (as depicted in John Steinbeck’s great novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and the subsequent motion picture starring Henry Fonda) reflected Depression-era reality. By 1943, there was instead a new optimism and hopefulness, exemplified by the hit musical *Oklahoma!* and the popular film *Casablanca*. Americans were back to work, with money in their pockets, and “all in” for the war effort.

The war also triggered contradictions on the home front. A nation dedicated to the democratic promise of all men created equal continued to treat minorities as second-class citizens. In the case of Japanese-Americans on the West Coast, most were forced, by executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to sell their property, businesses, and personal possessions for a pittance, and to spend much of the war years in isolated relocation camps. Even as more money circulated through the economy thanks to rising employment, Americans had fewer options for spending the coins in their pockets. Housing and many durable goods – cars, refrigerators, washing machines – were not being produced while the war was on. Still, income was rising, especially if a person was working overtime – and the war effort did spur decent-paying jobs for virtually every segment of American society.

The book you hold captures some of these realities, and much more. The excerpts derive from interviews that students in my Historical Methods courses conducted, beginning in 1990, with members of the World War II generation. Most of the interviews were with veterans. But a substantial number were with men and women who remained at home, as students, workers, and housewives. Their experiences varied enormously based on where they lived and what they were doing. As you will notice, there were distinct commonalities, in terms of patriotic spirit, accreting knowledge about world geography, unexpected challenges and pleasures, and, in some instances at least, a bit of mischief-making or worse.

The excerpts touch on some of the best-known aspects of home front life: reactions to Pearl Harbor; pitching in at school, work, and in local communities to support the troops; and personal reminiscences of memorable moments, whether as mundane as trying to turn inhospitable ingredients into edible oleo-margarine, or as dramatic as reactions to D-Day, the death of neighbors and loved ones, and the passing of President Roosevelt in April 1945. You will learn about the blue stars and gold stars that decorated front doors of homes, "Victory" gardens, salvage drives (right down to the collecting of Juicy Fruit gum wrappers), plane-spotting, and war bond rallies.

Many of the interviews conducted for this project, understandably enough, featured subjects who lived in South Central Pennsylvania, including Gettysburg and its environs. It is worth noting – as students learned firsthand – that people who lived on farms were often less aware of wartime developments, and less affected by the activities we most associate with the home front, than were denizens of towns and cities. Farmers did not have to deal with gas rationing, because their work was considered essential to the war effort. Lacking radios in most cases, farmers and their children did not hear Franklin Roosevelt's





An Adams County road, c. 1940.

Fireside Chats, Lowell Thomas's updates on the battlefield, or popular shows like *Amos and Andy*, *The Shadow*, and *Fibber McGee and Molly*. Even going to the movies to catch newsreels proved an uncommon activity for rural folk who lived as little as five or 10 miles from a movie theater. One size did not fit all when comparing wartime memories.

For residents of Gettysburg and its immediate vicinity, however, many of the experiences and themes we associate with the home front were applicable. More women worked. Conservation, blackouts, and rationing were givens. People of all ages took turns "spotting," often at what is today known as the Olinger Building on the southwest corner of Washington and Chambersburg Streets. Gettysburg residents like the Troxells of East Broadway proudly placed a blue-star flag on their front door. More mothers joined the workforce, and more latch-key kids roamed the borough after school. War stamps

and war bond drives were a staple of life. Everyone found a way to chip in, whether in a small town of roughly 5,000 like Gettysburg, or bigger cities like Harrisburg, Reading, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

One commonality – indeed, it was a universal sentiment – was relief that the A-bomb brought the war to a conclusion without resort to a full-scale invasion of Japan. “Thank God for the atom bomb” was a typical soldier’s and sailor’s refrain in the wake of the bombing. Judging by the expressions elicited in our students’ interviews, that was the response of virtually everyone asked their views about the war’s finale.

There was, of course, social dislocation and sorrow as well as hopefulness on the World War II home front. Juvenile delinquency rose. Hastily arranged marriages did not work out. Not everyone played by the rules. The black market was an all too common part of the home front; some interviewees even acknowledged participating in it. Most importantly, in too many instances, local boys who had gone off to war did not come home. Pride in their service could not obscure the pain of their loved ones’ loss. That, too, was part of the home front experience.

In collecting these interviews, Gettysburg College students encountered much about a world that is largely lost to us today. They learned something of the craft of interviewing. In many instances they perceived the value of intergenerational connections and sharing of stories, whether within their own families or with people they had never met. In a number of cases, students who conducted interviews with subjects they were meeting for the first time made connections that mattered to them beyond the requirements of completing an assignment. In other instances, they used their experience collecting these interviews as a springboard to interviewing a family member with interesting World War II-era stories to tell. Still others have meaningfully used the skills they gained in this enterprise as teachers and in the professions.

The excerpts and illustrations we have assembled are part of a much bigger World War II memory bank, which exists thanks to the efforts of students, scholars, and oral historians in so many places. We believe this particular archive of memory, representing a modest fraction of the Gettysburg College World War II collection, documents “the way it really was.”

Michael J. Birkner
Department of History
Gettysburg College

– THE INTERVIEWEES –

Anne Marie Baird

*Interviewed by David Thomas '09,
Dundalk, MD, March 17, 2007*

Maynard Barnhart, Jr.

*Interviewed by D. Andrew
Edgerton '98, Gettysburg, PA,
March 28, 1996*

Virginia Hershey Barriga

*Interviewed by Leigh
Greacen '06, Gettysburg, PA,
April 26, 1994*

Herb Bartell

*Interviewed by Gabriel Kelly '16,
New Oxford, PA, April 4, 2015*

Edward Baskerville

*Interviewed by Deiter Schmidt '97,
Gettysburg, PA, March 27, 1995*

Vera Best

*Interviewed by Kelley Baer '11,
Hazlett, NJ, March 13, 2009*

George Bixler

*Interviewed by James Judge '08,
Hanover, PA, March 21, 2006*

Maybelle Bogle

*Interviewed by Kathy Bogle '97,
October 31, 1992*

Louise Bream

*Interviewed by Brian McGlynn
'93, Gettysburg, PA, November 6,
1992, and Shawn Baker '95,
Gettysburg, PA, March 6, 1993*

Arthur Brown

*Interviewed by Katie Storm '13,
Fayetteville, PA,
November 2, 2010*

Ellen Buehler

*Interviewed by Robert Vogel '95,
Gettysburg, PA, March 26, 1993*



Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, in the 1940s.

David Burnite

*Interviewed by Chris Nelson '97,
Gettysburg, PA, April 1, 1995*

Russell Campbell, Jr.

*Interviewed by Derek Morrissey '95,
Gettysburg PA, March 11, 1993*

Barbara Jean Chase

*Interviewed by Ellice C. E.
Fullam '09, Westminster, MD,
March 22, 2009*

Josephine Fish Collitt

*Interviewed by Karin Olmsted '00,
Mechanicsburg, PA, March 29, 1999*

John Conroy

*Interviewed by Jack Pittenger '08,
Shippensburg, PA,
October 26, 2006*

Mary Frances Copenhaver

*Interviewed by Julia Deros '17,
New Oxford, PA, March 24, 2015*

Jack Corbin

*Interviewed by Chris Patterson '95,
Gettysburg, PA, March 3, 1993*

Elinor Cox

*Interviewed by Jennifer Kielbasa
'03, Burtonsville, MD,
October 27, 2001*

Ruth Fortenbaugh Craley

*Interviewed by Jessica Cannella '09,
Gettysburg, PA, October 15, 2006*

Roberta Crane

*Interviewed by John Cook '94,
Gettysburg, PA, November 5, 1992*

Dorothy Craver

*Interviewed by Lindsey Boehme
'02, Gettysburg, PA, October 29,
1999*

Mary Crouthamel

*Interviewed by Stephanie Reis '02,
Gettysburg, PA, March 29, 2001*

Elizabeth Daniels

*Interviewed by Kelli Agnew '00,
Gettysburg, PA, November 6, 1992*

David Dawson

*Interviewed by Andrew T.
Stinson '07, Frederick, MD,
October 19, 2004*

Betty Davis

*Interviewed by Brooke Thayer '12,
Gettysburg, PA, March 26, 2010*

Donna Davis

*Interviewed by Evan Rothera '10,
Levittown, PA, March 8, 2009*

Larry DeCesare

*Interviewed by Michael Swartz
'09, Barnegat, New Jersey,
March 15, 2007*

Vincent DeCesare

*Interviewed by Jamie Kessler '08,
Shrewsbury Township, NH,
March 25, 2006*

Louise Dee

*Interviewed by Jere Dee '00,
1988*

Neil DeLuca

*Interviewed by Amanda
Caligiuri '09, Long Island, NY,
October 21, 2006*

Gilbert Derrenberger

*Interviewed by Morgan
Douglas '01, Woodlawn, MD,
March 24, 2000*

Evelyn Dice

*Interviewed by Elizabeth
Ryan '08, Chambersburg, PA,
October 20, 2006*

John C. DiCerbo

*Interviewed by Christopher
DiCerbo '11, October 23, 2009*

Frances DiMura

*Interviewed by Lauren Rocco
Morley '02, Albany, NY,
March 11, 2002*

Charles C. Drawbaugh

Interviewed by William C. Halstead '04, York, PA, April 3, 2004

Gerald Duncan

Interviewed by Benjamin Swanson '11, Hanover, PA, March 21, 2009

Betty Dunkelberger

Interviewed by Thomas O. Winship '93, Gettysburg, PA, November 2, 1992

Muriel Dunlop

Interviewed by Caitlin Connelly '17, New Oxford, PA, March 21 and 27, 2015

Lorraine Egan-Elwood

Interviewed by Kyle Elwood '11, Green Brook, NJ, October 24, 2009

Reta Lou Evans

Interviewed by Heather Hershey '03, Kennett Square, PA, March 11, 2001

Anne Faber

Interviewed by Jenifer Martin '95, Gettysburg, PA, March 29, 1993

John Fehringer

Interviewed by Ted Hartman '00, Gettysburg, PA, April 1, 1999

Fred Feiser

Interviewed by Andrew Mearns '12, New Oxford, PA, October 27, 2010

Robert Fidler

Interviewed by Anthony DeCapua '95, Gettysburg, PA, March 8, 1993

Lawrence Folkemer

Interviewed by Jamal Liverpool '95, Gettysburg, PA, April 24, 1995

Esther Fortenbaugh

Interviewed by Kiley Mann '01, Arendtsville, PA, April 5, 1999

Robert Fortenbaugh

Interviewed by Vanessa Kramer '01, April 24, 1998

Milton Franklin


Interviewed by Christopher Dinger '01, April 4, 1999

Gloria Friday

Interviewed by Jonathan Neu '07, Jefferson Hills, PA, March 13, 2006

Robert Fryling

Interviewed by William Gorton '99, Gettysburg PA, April 2, 1996



Gettysburg business owner Ernie Kranias outside his establishment, Ernie's Texas Lunch, on Chambersburg Street, c. 1943.

Charles Gardner

*Interviewed by Scott Kenner '07,
Hanover, PA, October 27, 2004*

Jane Geiselman

*Interviewed by Victoria Shepard '11,
Hanover, PA, October 26, 2009*

Elizabeth Geyer

*Interviewed by Jacob Blackford '94,
Gettysburg, PA, November 9, 1992,
and Elizabeth Bauerlein, Gettysburg,
PA, November 5, 1999*

L. Virginia Godman

*Interviewed by Laura Baldasarre '12,
Gettysburg, PA, October 21, 2009*

Richard Godman

*Interviewed by Austin Clark '12,
Gettysburg, PA, October 22, 2009*

Beulah Gotwalt

*Interviewed by Chris Patterson '95,
Hanover, PA, November 2, 1992*

Jay Gross, Jr.

*Interviewed by Jeremy S.
Lechner '11, St. Marys, PA,
October 12, 2009*

Evelyn Guss

*Interviewed by Jenny Kummerle '01,
Gettysburg, PA, March 30, 1999*

Doris Haas

*Interviewed by Bruce Lindsey '96,
Arendtsville, PA, May 10, 1994, and
Amanda Nagele '02, Arendtsville,
PA, March 22, 2002*

Nancy Hammett

*Interviewed by Tracy Clifford '07,
Fayetteville, PA, March 22, 2006*

Glen Harner

*Interviewed by Carl York '03,
Gettysburg, PA, March 27, 2001*

Helen Hauser

*Interviewed by Ashley Towle '09,
Biglerville, PA, October 23, 2006*

Marie Hegeman

*Interviewed by Anushia
Sivendran '04, Gettysburg, PA,
October 28, 2002*

Mary Heiges

*Interviewed by Michelle
Maniscalco '96, Gettysburg, PA,
April 26, 1995*

Dick Herman

*Interviewed by Stephanie
Zengel '16, New Oxford, PA,
March 23, 2015*

Alexine Hikes

*Interviewed by Monica Everett '03,
Gettysburg, PA, March 23, 2001*

Howard Hinkeldey

*Interviewed by Paul Gaffney '99,
Gettysburg, PA, March 25, 1999,
and Ty Klippenstein '04,
Gettysburg, PA, October 27, 2002*

Jean Holder

*Interviewed by Michael Root '94,
Gettysburg, PA,
November 16, 1992*

Harold Hollenbach

*Interviewed by Jen Fleming '02,
Harrisburg, PA, October 30, 1999*

Kathleen Hudson

*Interviewed by Beth Anderson '94,
Biglerville, PA, November 6, 1992*

Kenneth Hull

*Interviewed by Matthew
Washburne '95, Gettysburg, PA,
April 24, 1995*

Carol Iwancio

*Interviewed by Amanda
Thibault '17, New Oxford, PA,
March 21, 2015*

Ruth Jewell

*Interviewed by Stephanie
Zengel '16, New Oxford, PA,
March 23, 2015*

Mildred Johnson

*Interviewed by Jessica
Kolodziejki '00, Gettysburg, PA,
March 31, 1999*

Julia Jones

*Interviewed by Andy Curtiss '95,
November 1992*

Jean Keller

*Interviewed by Brian Owens '03,
March 2001*

Lottie Kiessling

*Interviewed by Abbey Waltmire
'12, York, PA, October 23, 2010*

Robert Koons

Interviewed by Daniel Jewett '00, Gettysburg, PA, March 23, 1998, and Nick Morse '01, Gettysburg, PA, April 1, 1999

John Kresky

Interviewed by Jonathan Chin '00, Gettysburg, PA, March 24, 1998, and Edward Charlesworth '01, Gettysburg, PA, April 4, 1999

Ernest Leer

Interviewed by Michael A. Kelly '98, Gettysburg, PA, March 29, 1996

Nancy Locher

Interviewed by Amanda Spillman '08, Gettysburg, PA, April 12, 2007

Alice Long

Interviewed by Rachel Santose '11, Parma, OH, October 12, 2008

Virginia Maher

Interviewed by Dan Gallucci '94, November 1, 1992

Joy Nelson Mara

Interviewed by Sandra Egan '93, Gettysburg, PA, November 9, 1992

Donald Markle

Interviewed by Sean Heidorn '00, Gettysburg, PA, March 31, 1999

Robert W. Martin

Interviewed by Mike Graham '00, Gettysburg, PA, March 25, 1998

Betty McDowell

Interviewed by Joshua McDowell '03, Delanco, NJ, March 15, 2001

Rosamond McDowell

Interviewed by Amy Jennings '11, Westwood, MA, March 15, 2010

Vilma McGill

Interviewed by Nathan Lanan '12, Blairsville, PA, October 25, 2010

Mildred McVicker

Interviewed by Kelli Burnham '03, Gettysburg, PA, March 26, 2001

Carey Moore

*Interviewed by William Becker '99, Gettysburg, PA, March 27, 1998
History 421 class visit, Gettysburg, PA, November 20, 2017*

Pat Moore

History 421 class visit, Gettysburg, PA, November 20, 2017

Elaine Moran

Interviewed by Alex Stockdale '10, Lewisburg, PA, March 19, 2009

John A. Murphy

Interviewed by Joseph S. Valerio '07, Gettysburg, PA, October 28, 2004

Robert O'Brien

Interviewed by Patrick Saley '12, Gettysburg, PA, October 28, 2010

Elmer Parks

Interviewed by James F. Cox '12, Dillsburg, PA, October 30, 2010

Edwin Peterson, Jr.

Interviewed by Dallas Grubbs '12, Gettysburg, PA, October 23, 2009

Hilda Phifer

Interviewed by Jennifer Horner '93, Hainesport, NJ, October 22, 1992

Louise Pilgrim

Interviewed by Mary Roll '12, Chambersburg, PA, October 17, 2009

Barbara Platt

Interviewed by Andrew McCamley '12, Gettysburg, PA, October 22, 2009

Patricia Poloney

Interviewed by Kelsey Poloney '13, October 20, 2010

Gladys Pritchard

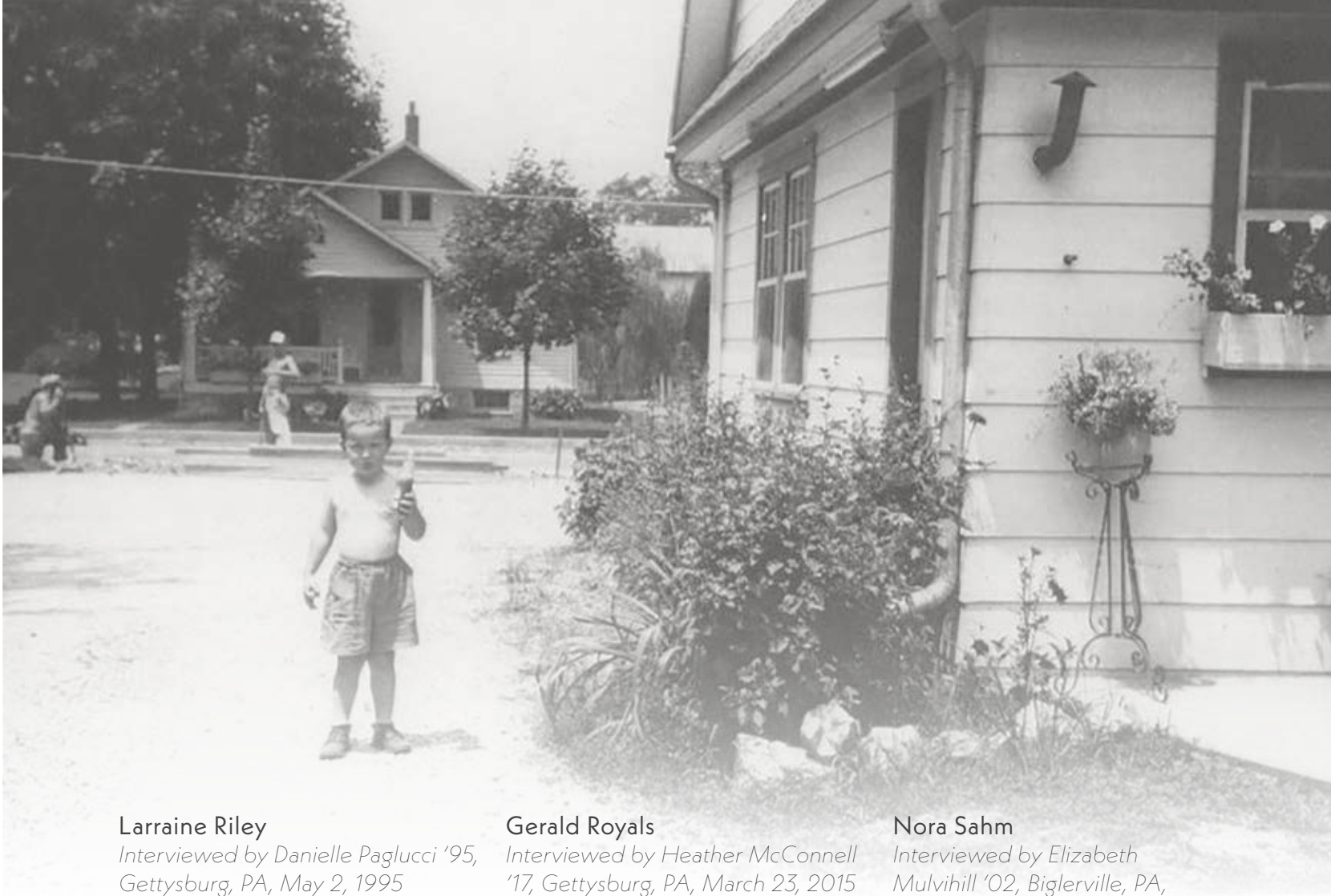
Interviewed by Jenna Boehm '11, Nazareth, PA, October 25, 2009

M. Louise Ramer

Interviewed by Laura Sundstorm Diemer '94, Gettysburg, PA, March 11, 1993

Suzanne Rebert

Interviewed by Joey Osborne '09, Gettysburg, PA, March 25, 2007



Lorraine Riley

*Interviewed by Danielle Paglucci '95,
Gettysburg, PA, May 2, 1995*

Helen Ross

*Interviewed by Marsha Hoffman
'94, Gettysburg, PA, October 31,
1992*

***Top: Child at Green Gables
Motor Hotel, looking west
toward Steinwehr Avenue.***

Gerald Royals

*Interviewed by Heather McConnell
'17, Gettysburg, PA, March 23, 2015
History 421 class visit, Gettysburg,
PA, November 20, 2017*

Arthur L. Ruths

*Interviewed by Kevin Luy '03,
Gettysburg, PA, October 31, 2000*

Gloria Saberin

*Interviewed by James Johnston '08,
Chambersburg, PA,
October 16, 2006*

Nora Sahn

*Interviewed by Elizabeth
Mulvihill '02, Biglerville, PA,
March 11, 2000*

Mabert Sanders

*Interviewed by Sarah Brewster '99,
Fairfield, PA, April 1, 1999*

Arlene Sanstedt

*Interviewed by Amanda Nagele '02,
Gettysburg, PA, March 6, 2000*

Martha Schaffer

*Interviewed by Amelia Benstead '16,
New Oxford, PA, March 22, 2014*

Marion Scharf

*Interviewed by Sandra
Skordrud '95, Gettysburg, PA,
March 4, 1993*

Lithea Schlige

*Interviewed by Kyle Serfass '11,
Levittown, PA, October 18, 2008*

Katherine Schneider

*Interviewed by Sira Grant '11,
Gettysburg, PA, October 27 and
November 1, 2008*

Kathryn Schultz

*Interviewed by John Byrne '94,
Gettysburg, PA, October 31, 1992,
and Derek Risso '95, Gettysburg, PA,
March 29, 1993*

Elizabeth Scott

*Interviewed by Kate Virdone '03,
Gettysburg, PA, October 21, 2001*

Jack Shand

*Interviewed by Ian Isherwood '00,
Gettysburg, PA, March 31, 1998*

Marian Sloat

*Interviewed by Carolyn Yaschur '93,
Gettysburg, PA, October 31, 1992*

Gladys Smith

*Interviewed by Abby Jackson '02,
Gettysburg, PA, October 25, 1999*

Leda Smith

*Interviewed by Kristin DeNicola '02,
Gettysburg, PA, October 25, 1999*

Bill Spoon

*Interviewed by Andrew Astley '16,
New Oxford, PA, March 22, 2014*

George Staub

*Interviewed by David H.
McClure Jr. '01, Gettysburg, PA,
October 27, 1999*

Alphonse Struzinski

*Interviewed by Steve Struzinski '03,
Philadelphia, PA, March 13, 2001*

Herman Stuempfle, Jr.

*Interviewed by Jon Streff '96,
Gettysburg, PA, April 24, 1995*

Elizabeth Sullivan

*Interviewed by Chris Lyerly '93,
Ortanna, PA, November 5, 1992*

Mary Ruth Thomas

*Interviewed by Tracy Schaal '96,
Gettysburg, PA, April 25, 1995*

Norma Jean Thompson

*Interviewed by Ashley Domm '07,
Fairfax, VA, October 30, 2004*

Cedric Tilberg

*Interviewed by Stephen Petrus '95,
Gettysburg, PA, March 6, 1993*

Jane Tilberg

*Interviewed by Gretchen Fox '94,
Gettysburg, PA, October 28, 1992*

Mark Tome

*Interviewed by MacDonald
Drane IV '11, October 28, 2009*

Ruth Van Brakle

*Interviewed by David Worley '04,
Harrisburg, PA, October 20, 2001*

Marie Versace

*Interviewed by Sarah Rafferty '02,
West Chester, PA, March 16, 2000*

James Waters

*Interviewed by Conor Breeden '16,
New Oxford, PA, March 25, 2015*

Paul Weirich

*Interviewed by Drew Carlson '08,
Gettysburg, PA, March 20, 2006*

Janet Wickerham

*Interviewed by Brooke Parrish '02,
Gettysburg, PA, October 15, 1999*

John Williams

*Interviewed by Justin Etter '01,
Gettysburg, PA, March 22, 2001*



George Larkin and Mary Catherine Berger walking up Carlisle Street, outside the Majestic Theater, October 1940.



Benito Mussolini and Fascist supporters in Rome, March 8, 1922.

– OMENS –

Rising to power on a tidal wave of public support for the National Socialist German Workers' (Nazi) Party, Adolf Hitler took over as Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933. By 1938-39, he had formed an alliance with Benito Mussolini, Italy's Prime Minister since 1922, and its Fascist dictator since 1925. Hitler, Mussolini, and the militarists dominating Japan's government pursued expansionist policies that resulted in reshaping maps and widespread suffering. For most Americans, however, these actions seemed disconnected from their daily concerns.

Mildred Johnson: I grew up hating war. When we were in school in York [PA], they would march us to the downtown movies and show us pictures of the First World War, and they were horrible. We were all at an impressionable age, of course, and I grew up hating war.

I always said, "If there's a war, I'm going to tell my husband to go back in the fields and hide." Of course, you don't do that when you're in it.

Marie Versace: In 1932 and '33, when I was in school [in Catania, Sicily], Mussolini came to the square. We had to prepare for his coming – with calisthenics, with jumping, with a salute – and we had to wear a uniform. The most horrible thing was, after he came, we were out in the square, and he's shouting and telling us what we're to do, how we are *ballilla*. That's what the children were: we were *ballilla*. We were the future soldiers of Italy.

He left soldiers there. Now the soldiers came into our school with bayonets, and the sisters had to open the doors, and we had to bring all of the religious books out in the courtyard. They made a bonfire out of that, right in front of our eyes, and they said that they would come back again, and if they were to find any more books . . .



Adolf Hitler accepts a Reichstag ovation after the annexing of Austria, March 1938.

Herman Stuempfle: My background is German. I remember visitors to our home, who had been to Germany in the late 1930s, relating glowing reports of what Hitler had done in the way of autobahns,¹ art – a lot of things that seemed to be part of a very positive movement there.

Ellen Buehler: I went to Europe in 1936. As we went places in Germany, there was always a big picture of Hitler. At night, just before we went to bed, we could hear the troops of young boys marching in the street, being trained for service. There were big buildings around there that worked all night long – we never could find out what they made. They were evidently getting ready for the war then.

Mary Heiges: My husband and I had a Mediterranean cruise in 1937. The ship was detoured through the Azore Islands, because there was trouble in Spain; I think we witnessed a little fight between two airplanes in the sky. Something must have been brewing.

¹*The federal highway system in Germany.*

Jack Shand: I had the opportunity to go to Germany in the summer of 1937, when I was a sophomore in high school. The head of the host family had two sons with whom I had a great opportunity to talk about Germany, what it needed to do, and its future. There was no question in my mind at that time that the Germans were planning a major war.

The boys, who were about 13 or 14 years of age, invited me to go to a Hitler Youth rally. This rally was very militaristic. All the people in the parade marched like they were very serious about military training, military service. They had a huge gathering, and speeches were made. This was at night, and in the middle was a great bonfire. They had given the young people Hitler Youth knives, which they carried at their sides. Along the side of the knife was the phrase, "Blood and honor."

Marie Hegeman: My mother was of German descent, and she was very upset with everything that was going on over there. I remember someone who had recently gone to Germany and had come back. They didn't realize that war preparation was going on when they were in Germany. They came back and commented that all the linden trees were gone on this one street. They later realized they were building tunnels under the streets.

Nancy Locher: I was brought up in Reform Judaism mode. My grandmother came from Germany, and still had some family over there. They had written to see if my family would bring some of them over, because conditions were awful. My parents were in the process of trying to do that when, about 1939, they just stopped hearing from these people.

Mary Ruth Thomas: I remember as a child seeing the Pathé News,² before a movie usually, and seeing these young men – I guess they were really boys – goose-stepping in Germany, and feeling fear. Just a feeling that I thought wasn't right. And of course it turned out it wasn't.

Robert Fryling: I think most of us took [the European situation] with a grain of salt. We thought we were going to get into it, but we weren't going to solve the problems, so we wouldn't let it get to us. We looked at it as if it were something we were going to do.

Reta Lou Evans: We all knew that it was coming.

Financial and material assistance to the U.S.S.R. was promoted in the U.S. in the early stages of the war.



² Based in England, Pathé News produced newsreels and documentaries between 1910 and 1970.



On September 1, 1939, Poland was invaded by the combined forces of Germany and the Soviet Union. Two days later, the United Kingdom and France made declarations of war and came to Poland's defense. It was the beginning of World War II, and it would result in the deaths of 70 million people worldwide.

The Nazis invade Poland.

Howard Hinkeldey: I was at that time delivering newspapers, and the newspaper put out a special edition that war was declared. It was far away, in Europe. We had no idea that we were going to be part of it.

Gloria Friday: I don't remember ever talking about Hitler invading Poland. It was a subject nobody wanted to talk about.

Robert O'Brien: We were not conversing about international problems. The issue was going to school, and having enough money for the family. Money was hard to come by.

Evans: My wedding day was two days after Germany invaded Poland. We were to go on our honeymoon on the Queen of Bermuda, a British ship. Of course that was cancelled, because the British wanted to use all their ships at home in case they needed them for troop ships.

Jack Corbin: I remember sitting around listening to the adults talking about the war – the fear that it would involve us.

Mark Tome: One of the things I remember when the war started was that the bubblegum people produced what we called war cards. Later on, you would know them better as baseball cards or football cards or things of that sort, with chewing gum. But we called them war cards, because it showed German Stukas³ dive-bombing on the Polish Army and things of that sort. It always had these little war pictures.

It was – in the very beginning, when you're that age – more of a game.

Edward Baskerville: There was a crisis building, and I was too young to understand fully all the ramifications of the problem that was going on. We had no television in those days; we had the radio and the newspaper. Most people, I think, had pretty much expected that Hitler would do something, and that the western powers couldn't let him get away with everything.

Locher: I was perhaps more aware of it because I was Jewish, and knew how much suffering was going on over there. But I think people did recognize that he was committing all kinds of atrocities, and they became increasingly worried about it.

Jean Holder: There was no question that Hitler did present a real threat to our country. There was no question that democracy was being threatened. It was being obliterated in Europe. We could see that we were going to be isolated, perhaps the last standing democracy in the world.

³ *Ground-attack aircraft. Stukas spearheaded the German air assaults on Poland, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France in 1939-40.*



Elizabeth Daniels: Everybody was feeling very sorry for Great Britain. You felt a sort of aching need to do something. Before we even got into the war – I don't know what organization it was, Girl Scouts or something – we made bundles for gifts. We got things together that would be helpful to people in Great Britain. I remember making, out of flannel, little baby jackets.

Baskerville: My mother used to do what she could for Bundles for Britain,⁴ an organization that sprang up early – I think it was already functional by 1939 – that supplied things that were needed in England.

Mildred McVicker: I remember when President Roosevelt started this Lend-Lease⁵ program, and how he had to sell that to the American people. I remember him in one of his talks saying, "Say you have a neighbor whose house catches fire. You lend him your hose so he can put the fire out. You don't care; you'll get the hose back when he's finished with it. And if it doesn't work, if it rots out or something – why, it was put to good use."

⁴ A relief organization, begun in New York in 1940 as a women's knitting circle producing socks, gloves, hats, sweaters, and scarves for the English. Later expanding to nearly 1,000 branches, Bundles for Britain shipped medical supplies, cots, field kitchen units, ambulances, and operating tables.

⁵ Lend-Lease began as a U.S. program to support the English war effort with loans of weaponry, oil, food, and other goods. Signed into law on March 11, 1941, it became a larger program to distribute goods to all Allied countries.



Stuempfle: We were all aware of the ways in which we were helping materially, with things like Lend-Lease, and it seemed like a natural step for us to become more involved. I think the only question was when and under what circumstances.

John Kresky: We had this isolationist attitude in this country, and I guess I felt like that myself. I was young. I felt Europe should take care of its own problems. But in hindsight, that was not a good attitude to have.

Baskerville: The isolationists made a lot of noise, and we heard a lot about 'em. [Charles A.] Lindbergh used to speak in Madison Square Garden. There was a guy named Father [Charles] Coughlin – my father used to delight in listening to him, because he was such a crazy.⁶

⁶ Lindbergh (1902-1974) was an American aviator, heroized since 1927 as the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic. In the late 1930s, he became a prominent advocate of Hitler's regime and leader of the "America First" movement, an isolationist effort to prevent the U.S. from entering the war. Coughlin (1891-1979), a Catholic priest based in Michigan, delivered weekly radio addresses beginning in 1926. Initially a supporter of FDR's programs, he became a promoter of European fascism whose radio talks were punctuated by anti-Semitic rhetoric. He was forced off the air in 1939.

The hand-drawn images on these pages come from Tale of a City, a 1942 publication based on the testimony of a former Polish Army officer who witnessed the early days of the Nazi occupation.



John Conroy: My parents were born in Ireland, but were in this country at the time of the First World War. It made an impression on them, I think; they were conscious of a wartime economy. My mother started, in effect, hoarding things that she knew would be short. Every now and then, she would send my brother and me to the store with a wagon, and we would buy a 25-pound sack of sugar. Soap was another thing she bought. Cans of shortening. And as a backup for the sugar, one-gallon cans of honey.

Gerald Duncan: I don't think it was a complete surprise to me or anybody else. It was just a matter of time. The plant I worked at [York Safe and Lock Company], they weren't going to build 40-millimeter anti-aircraft guns if we weren't going to war.

Baskerville: I certainly wanted to see the country get involved. In spite of the rhetoric of [Winston] Churchill, the odds at that point looked ferociously bad.

The Berger family in front of their home at 339 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, 1940. Many American youth were inspired by war talk to enlist in the military prior to Pearl Harbor.





Mussolini and Hitler in Munich, 1940.

The U.S.S. Arizona burns at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.



– PEARL HARBOR –

Early in the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at the Hawaiian air base known as Pearl Harbor. More than 2,400 service personnel and civilians were killed, with nearly 1,200 wounded. The following day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed Congress and requested a declaration of war with Japan. He called December 7 “a date which will live in infamy.”

Elizabeth Geyer: I can see everything. I can see the table, and a radio, about yea big, where the news came out.

Stuempfle: We were walking along the street on that beautiful, bright, lovely, warm Sunday afternoon, and we heard on a radio filtering through an open window that Pearl Harbor had been bombed.

Neal DeLuca: It was Sunday, and we always ate down at my grandmother’s. I remember my mother gave me a plate of uncooked chicken and said, “Take [this] down to [your grandmother’s house].” I was walking across the yard with this plate of chicken in my hands, when one of the neighbors from the upstairs apartment came out and said, “Neal, did you hear? The Japanese just bombed Pearl Harbor.”

Vincent DeCesare: I was sitting in a soda shop called Jimmy’s. It was about 2:15 in the afternoon, and this guy said, “We interrupt this program to bring a special news bulletin. The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor. The United States Navy’s ships have been sunk” – the *Arizona* and the battleships. And everybody’s going, “Where the heck is Pearl Harbor?”

L. Virginia Godman: I was pregnant with my first child, sitting on the porch, talking to my minister at the time, believe it or not. We had the radio on always – to listen to music and that kind of stuff. That’s when I heard it.

Kenneth Hull: My wife and I were riding up around the Caledonia section, west of Gettysburg, when we heard on the automobile radio that Pearl Harbor had been attacked.

Vera Best: My sister was bringing my niece Janet home from the hospital. She had just been born. I was in the kitchen, painting her kitchen table. I had gotten the top done, and three of the legs. The fourth one never got painted.

John A. Murphy: My mother was about to wash my hair, and I thought this actually was good news, because I wasn't going to get my hair washed. It was like, "Whoa – I'm saved at the last minute."

Conroy: I can remember when Kennedy was shot; I can remember when the man on the moon landed. But I have absolutely no recollection of Pearl Harbor.

Julia Jones: It was startling. That's all I can remember.

Elinor Cox: We were in the living room, listening to the Redskins game. During that broadcast, every once in a while, the announcer would call for this serviceman or that serviceman to report, or to call – they're to get to headquarters, get in touch with home, or whatever. I remember them coming in every once in a while and calling someone's name that they were trying to locate. And then, when they finally came in and told us that Pearl Harbor had been bombed . . .

Honolulu, HI
Dec. 8, 1941
Dear Fern,
yesterday I witnessed the
most dastardly action
has yet undertaken.
and aviation forces
bombed Honolulu and
had and raided other
islands.



Leda Smith: We had a Sunday school that met every Sunday afternoon, and we were up there, and we kept looking – “Where’s our superintendent? How come she’s not here? Where is she?” And we kept waiting. Finally she came, all in tears. She said, “The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor, and my son is over there.”

George Staub: My family was getting ready to go to church. I love listening to the radio, and I always did. It broke into the program – if I remember right, it was *The Lone Ranger* – that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor. I go running to tell my father, and he just laughed. He said, “Yeah, Georgie. Son, it’s just a program.” “No, Dad,” I said, “they bombed Pearl Harbor.” And he said, “Now come on, honey. We’re late for church.”

So we went to church, and as our minister was greeting everybody, he was telling everybody it happened. I thought my dad was going to faint. I mean, he just went white!

Betty Davis: We were out on a Sunday afternoon drive, and my mother was expecting my baby sister that month, and it came on the news that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. We were at war. I remember my mother crying, and it upset me terribly.

Larry DeCesare: I was driving a 1939 Oldsmobile on Webster Avenue and Gun Hill Road in the Bronx. We had the radio on, and they said, “The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.” I had two friends with me, and they said, “Where’s Pearl Harbor?”

Lithea Schlige: We were at my husband’s mother’s, and his brother is there, and we’re sitting at the table, and he takes the sugar bowl and says, “Now here’s Japan – and here’s Hawaii – ” He’s moving all these salt and pepper shakers and everything around to show us where everything is.

Evans: We were coming from a friend’s wedding in New York back to Pennsylvania, where we were living by then. We picked it up on the car radio. The first thing we saw was two servicemen trying to thumb a ride. So we stopped and picked them up.

Murphy: My wife lived on the north side of the city of Rochester [NY]. They had a largely German community; a lot of people were rejoicing that the war was breaking out, and that pretty soon the Germans would be coming to save the city.

Opposite left: A letter of December 8, with an eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Opposite right: Families heard news of the attack on the radio.

**SPECIAL
War Edition**

ESTABLISHED 1902

THE GETTYSBURG TIMES

Truth Our Guide—The Public Good Our Aim

With Honor to Ourselves and Profit to Our Patrons

GETTYSBURG, PA., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8, 1941

**SPECIAL
War Edition**

PRICE TWO CENTS

Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor And Then Declares War on U. S.

Gladys Pritchard: I had an uncle stationed in Pearl Harbor. He got in touch with us that he was there, but he was not harmed. He was brushing his teeth when the attack came.

Edwin Peterson, Jr.: My father was sitting at the table by the radio playing solitaire. He loved to play solitaire. He stopped in the middle of his game, dropped his cards on the table, and said, "Jesus Christ. The goddamn Japanese bombed us." It was a shock. I didn't even know they were mad at us.

Esther Fortenbaugh: I was dancing with my boyfriend in the dining room. We stopped dancing, fast.

Hinkeldey: We went to school the next day, and they brought in a large radio and set it up on the stage in the assembly room. All the classes were brought in to listen to President Roosevelt's address to Congress, asking for a declaration of war.

Hilda Phifer: Everybody – to put it in plain words – got goose bumps, because [FDR] was a very good speaker. He really brought his subject across to people. It really made them feel that this was it.

Ruth Van Brakle: There was dead silence in the dining room. At the end of the announcement, "the day of infamy" – someone, I don't remember who it was, stood up and said a prayer. We were dismissed then.

Evelyn Guss: It was impressive. It was just a hard thing to think – that we were at war.

Virginia Maher: I recall listening to the radio and the gatherings at Times Square, people saying that we were going to end it in two weeks. They thought that Japan was just some little island out there.

Buehler: I think that, to most of us, it didn't mean very much at first. We didn't know much about Pearl Harbor, and we didn't know the tragedy it turned out to be. I think it took a while for that to sink in to people's knowledge. And then we realized how terrible it was.

David Burnite: At first the feeling was exhilaration, because we were finally getting into something that we should have gotten into before.

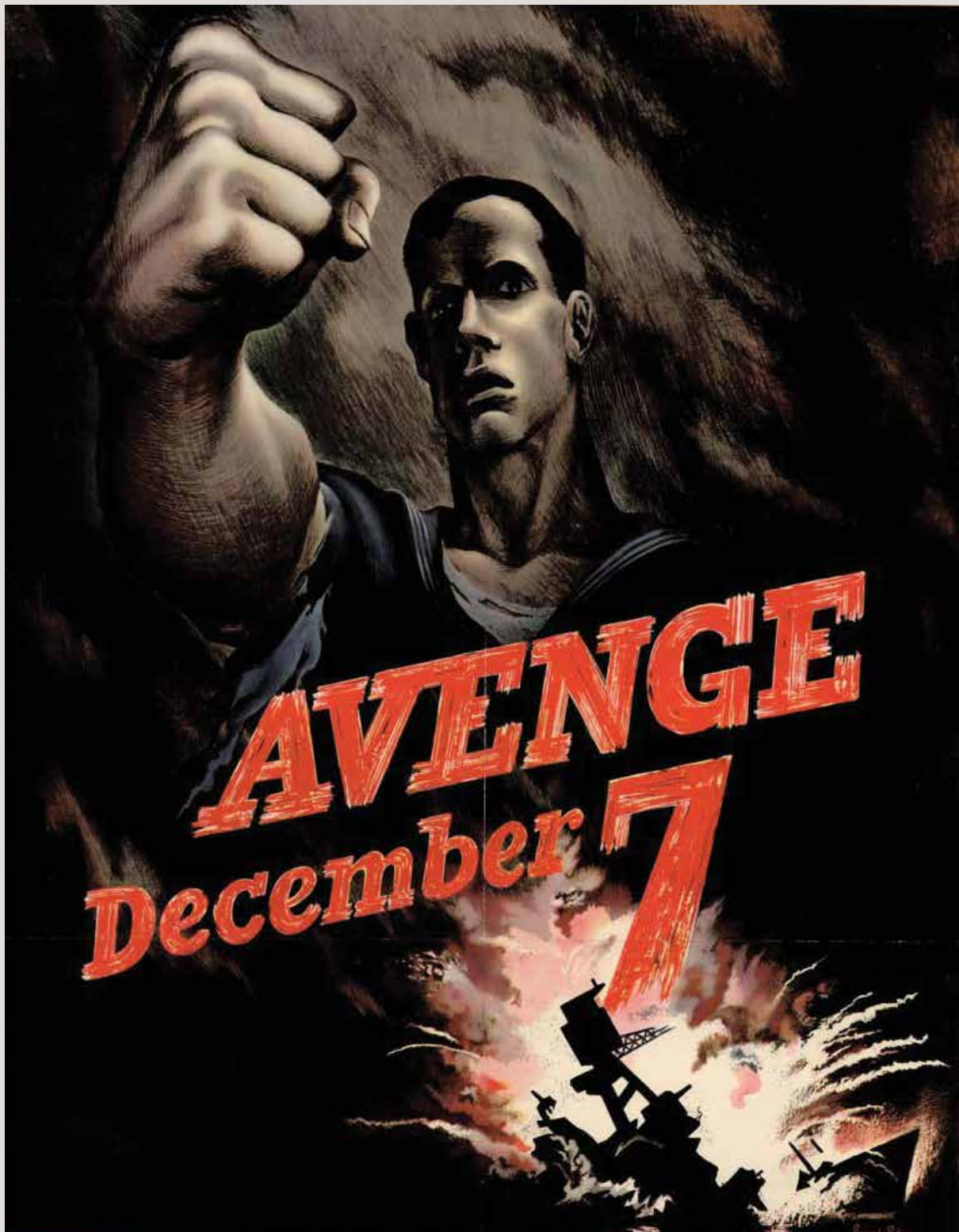
Cox: I remember my mother being very upset about it. She had lived through World War I, and even though it was over across the ocean, it was a lot of people – her brother, and a lot of people she knew – that went, and they came back disabled. Some *didn't* come back. She was really upset, because there were so many of the young boys in the neighborhood that she knew would be going, and it bothered her.

Elizabeth Scott: I had no acquaintance with the Japanese; I knew nothing of their culture or of their involvement. I was just plain ignorant. I'm afraid that I was not alone. I was shocked – but I was angry, too.

Marion Scharf: The odd thing is that right before we went to war, the Japanese ambassador stayed at our hotel [*the Hotel Gettysburg, shown below*]. I said to my husband at the time, "That's the Japanese ambassador." It was the next day, two days later, that Pearl Harbor was attacked. I think he was on his way back to Japan at the time.

Marion Scharf (née Strouse).





AVENGE
December 7

Kresky: It was a total shock to me. But it was also kind of expected, because I remember we used to pick scrap iron and sell it to the guy coming around the neighborhood – metal, copper, old rags, things like that. I remember people saying that metal was going to Japan, and it's going to come back to us in the form of bullets. I never really thought too much about it, but sure enough, that's exactly what happened.

Nora Sahm: Some of the older folks would say that President Roosevelt knew it was coming. The older folks, the people that didn't like Roosevelt, would really condemn him, saying that we should have been prepared.

Staub: Roosevelt knew. Actually, it was planned. The ones at the top knew.

Elizabeth Sullivan: What I said was, "Thank goodness – now England won't have to fight alone." Which was rather a shock to the person who told me what had happened. When I found out how bad it had been, it was a shock to me, too.

Versace: That was a funny day when Pearl Harbor was bombed, because all of the young people immediately changed their attitude. We all clumped together to defend the country, and everybody was willing to go to war to stop this.

Josephine Fish Collitt: Gettysburg is a pretty little, isolated community. Even the [College] campus – it's like there's an invisible wall around it, protecting people from the rest of the world. When Pearl Harbor came, all of a sudden we were exposed. It was like we had a place in this world.

Burnite: We knew the inevitable had finally come to pass.

Hegeman: The next day, you really weren't a kid anymore.

Anne Marie Baird: [Sings]

*Oh, we will remember Pearl Harbor as we go to meet the foe.
We will remember Pearl Harbor as we did the Alamo.
We will always remember how they died to make us free.
Let's remember Pearl Harbor and go on to victory.*

On December 11, mutual declarations of war were exchanged between the U.S. and the German-Italian axis. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd president of the United States, was serving his third term when Pearl Harbor was attacked, having served continuously since 1933. Roosevelt had maintained a cautious foreign policy, not wanting to get too far ahead of American public opinion, which was largely isolationist prior to 1940. The president's hostility to Hitler was no secret, and he had been moving the country by stages to direct confrontation with Germany even before Pearl Harbor. With the attack at Pearl, Americans across the political spectrum rallied behind the flag, and pitched in for the duration. Dr. New Deal, as Roosevelt described himself, had become Dr. Win-the-War.

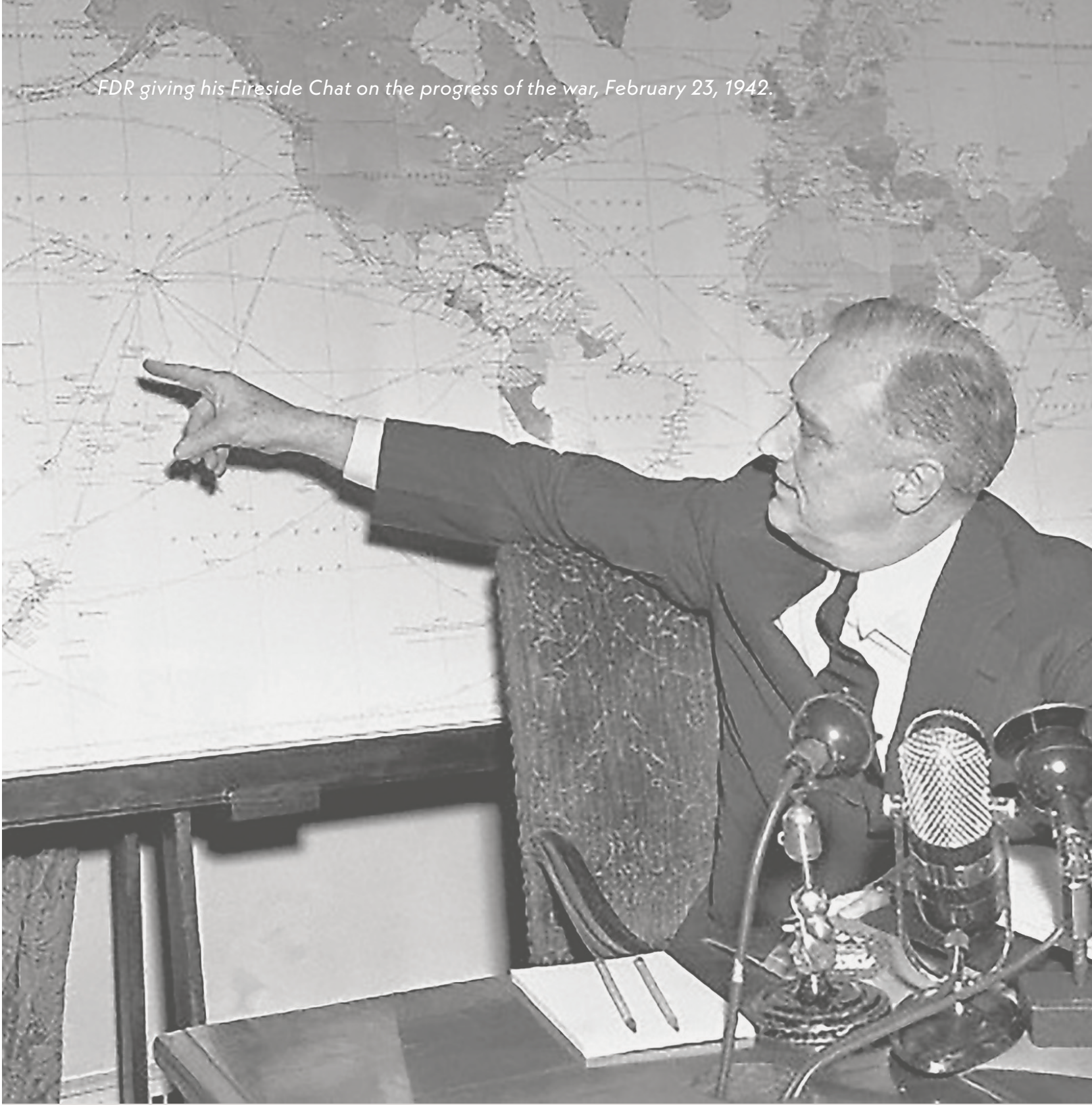
Lorraine Riley: We had leaders then. Young people say today that we don't have any leaders we can look up to. Now, I don't know how you feel about that. But I know that everybody looked up to Eisenhower and Roosevelt. They were almost worshipped.

Doris Haas: There's a lot of controversy about [the claim] that actually President Roosevelt was aware those Japs were coming, and somehow the message didn't quite make it to Pearl Harbor in time. Whether that's true or not, I don't know. But there was a lot of talk about it, because wartime made FDR look very good.

Burnite: Gettysburg is a Republican stronghold now. In those years, this was a stronghold of the Democratic Party.

Peterson: My family were devout Republicans. To my parents, [FDR] was a very evil man. I remember that my parents supported a guy by the name of Wendell Willkie for president in 1940.

FDR giving his Fireside Chat on the progress of the war, February 23, 1942.



Phifer: If you hated Roosevelt, you hated him. But if you liked him, you *really* liked him. I think most people liked him.

Maher: Eleanor Roosevelt was very popular – traveling everywhere, making speeches, visiting factories. Three-quarters admired what she was doing, and the others thought she should stay home. That was the attitude in those days about women. I think she helped change things. She was a positive force.

Donna Davis: She gave teas for the service ladies, and we all had turns going. She was very interesting to talk to, a very nice lady, and her voice sounded exactly like it does today, if you hear her on a recording. I don't know what [FDR] would have done without her; she really kept him going.

Thomas: I sort of admired her for being an independent woman, and she certainly did things that no other president's wife has ever done, with all her activities and everything. And I think I admired her because she was for the underprivileged and underpaid and the poor people of the country.

Burnite: Roosevelt was a strong leader. Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt – they could do no wrong. But as history unfolded in later years, we found out the things that had taken place that were wrong. For instance, our government knew that Japan was going to bomb Pearl Harbor. They knew that, yet nothing was ever done.

Friday: At first, we just thought he was another president that we elected. But as the years went on, we came to idolize him. I listened to him all the time on the radio. I think most people did. He would always mention that he was by the fire. Even when we saw him in the movies, on the newsreels, the Fireside Chats, you would see him sitting by a fire with his dog, Fala.

Katherine Schneider: Many people never realized that he was in a wheelchair most of the time. You know the Peace Light? Well, there's a bit of woods behind it, and when he dedicated it, he had them bring him out through the back woods before the crowds got there, so that they would never see the wheelchair.⁷

Helen Ross: I think – and this is a Republican speaking – he wanted to get us into the war originally. But I don't think he wanted to get us into the war to kill people. I think he wanted to get us into it to help England.

⁷ *The Eternal Light Peace Memorial, known as the Peace Light, was dedicated by Roosevelt on July 3, 1938, during the reunion marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. It stands on Oak Ridge, site of the first day's fighting.*

Haas: He could charm the birds from the trees. But during the war, nobody would have said that Roosevelt was a jerk. Nobody would have thought of doing that. He was our president.

Now, you don't think you'll
be going overseas, do you? Oh
gosh, I hope not. I'm going to write
to F.D.R. and tell him he just
can't do that. Don't tell anybody,
but I think we are getting jerked
around on this whole deal. If
F.D.R. knew what we are going
through he certainly ought to
appreciate Eleanor.

Left: Part of a letter from Helen Haldeman of Chambersburg, PA, to her husband Clarence.

Below: Eleanor Roosevelt with U.S. troops in the Galapagos Islands, March 21, 1944.



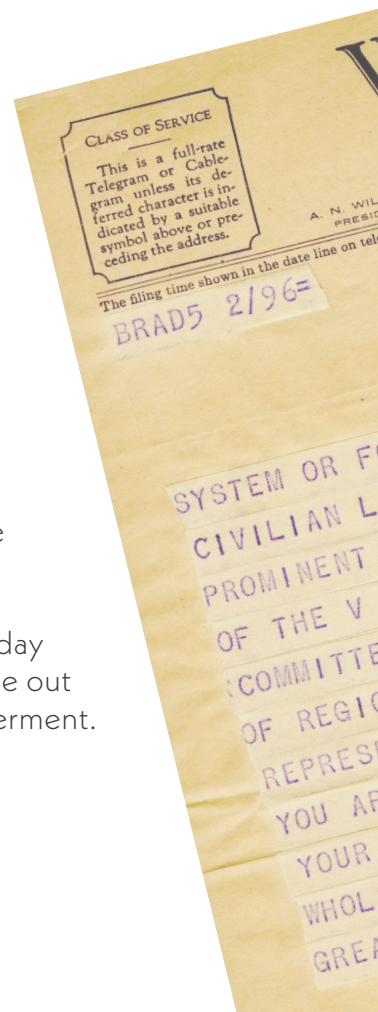
– JOINING UP –

Compulsory military registration, which had existed in the U.S. during the Civil War and World War I, was reintroduced by the Selective Service and Training Act, signed by FDR on September 16, 1940. The parameters of the act would change as the war continued. Length of service was extended from one year to the duration of the war plus six months; a draft lottery was replaced by a network of local draft boards responsible for identifying and inducting draftees; and the minimum age of 20 was lowered to 18.

A variety of classifications, from 1-A (cleared for all military service) to 4-F (rejected on physical, mental, or moral grounds), determined each inductee's fitness to serve. Allowances were made for religious or moral principles, which, if substantiated by draft boards, allowed the inductee to serve in a non-combatant role as a conscientious objector. Amendments were also adopted to ensure that the home front would not be left unmanned and unprotected.

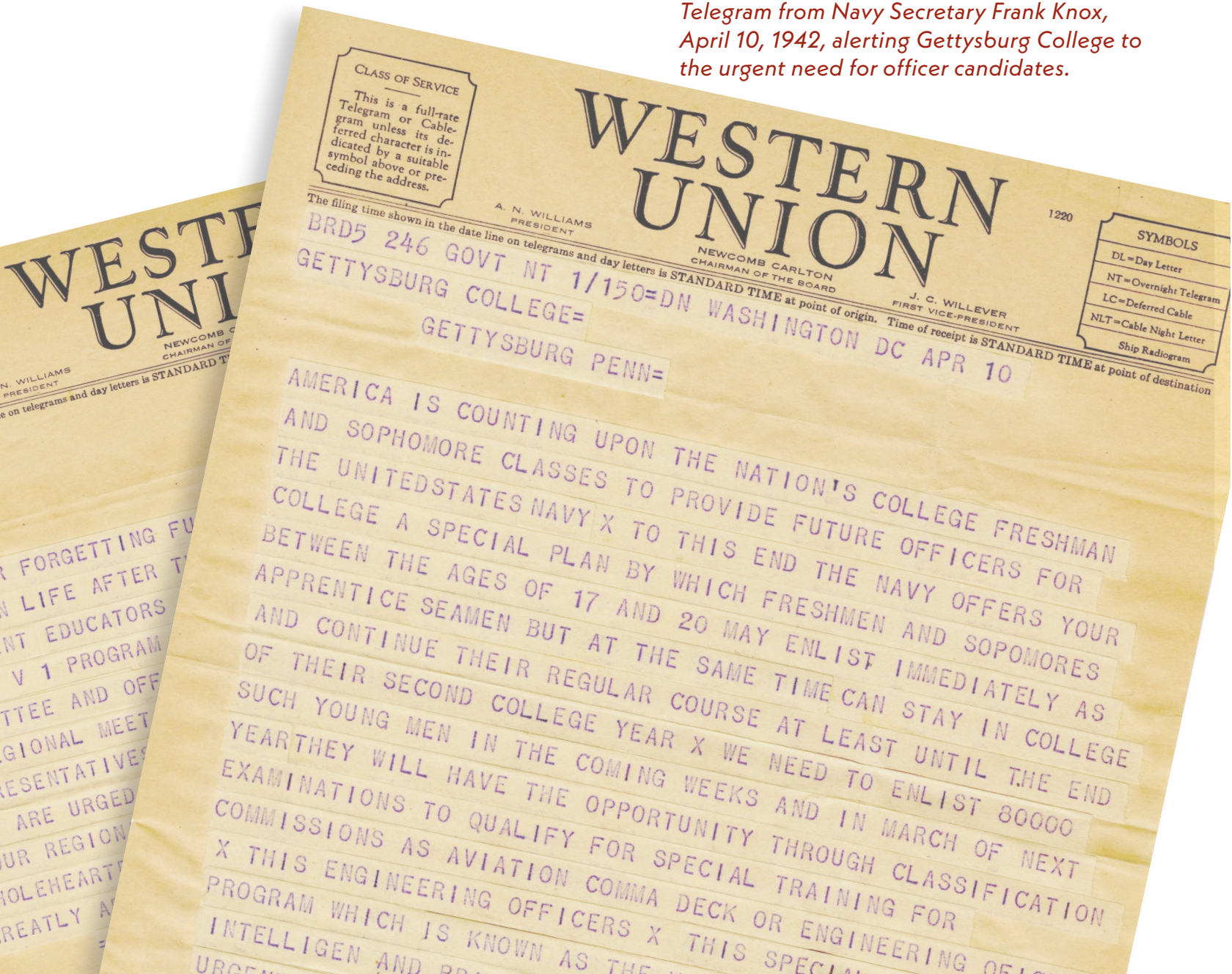
Betty Dunkelberger: My husband turned to me on December 7 and said, "I'll be in before the year is out." And he was.

Fred Feiser: I knew, once Pearl Harbor happened, I was going to be in. In fact, I got a 30-day deferment to finish my [mortician's] apprenticeship. A man in the community called me out terribly! His two sons were in the service, and he was upset about me getting the deferment.



Herb Bartell: No question about it, you were going to get drafted when you were 18. So the school set up a date. They completed a school year in a half-year; they had to take extra courses and all of that. So instead of graduating in June, they had a graduation in January, for the guys that were 18 years old and were going to get drafted.

Telegram from Navy Secretary Frank Knox, April 10, 1942, alerting Gettysburg College to the urgent need for officer candidates.



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WESTERN UNION

1220

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AMERICA IS COUNTING UPON THE NATION'S COLLEGE FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE CLASSES TO PROVIDE FUTURE OFFICERS FOR THE UNITED STATES NAVY X TO THIS END THE NAVY OFFERS YOUR COLLEGE A SPECIAL PLAN BY WHICH FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 17 AND 20 MAY ENLIST IMMEDIATELY AS APPRENTICE SEAMEN BUT AT THE SAME TIME CAN STAY IN COLLEGE AND CONTINUE THEIR REGULAR COURSE AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THEIR SECOND COLLEGE YEAR X WE NEED TO ENLIST 80000 SUCH YOUNG MEN IN THE COMING WEEKS AND IN MARCH OF NEXT YEAR THEY WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH CLASSIFICATION EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL TRAINING FOR COMMISSIONS AS AVIATION COMMA DECK OR ENGINEERING OFFICERS X THIS ENGINEERING OFFICERS X THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE INTELLIGEN AND BR URGENT

Hinkeldey: I went to Harrisburg for a physical exam when I was a student at Gettysburg College. I was stamped 1-A, but I applied for 2-A classification – an occupational deferment for a college student. I got the 2-A, and as soon as I got to Gettysburg Seminary, I applied for 2-B. But by that time, the war was over.

John Williams: I still have my 1-A card somewhere. The phone company simply made a policy that they would not defer people – they didn't think the work was sufficiently critical.

Donald Markle: My father was a builder. During the Second World War, he did not go into the service – because he was building the Pentagon.

Evelyn Dice: I didn't have no concern that my husband would need to go, although he was in that age group, because he was a farmer. They didn't take the farmers, because they needed them to produce the food. It always seems to take extra food when there's a war going on!

Baird: The ones that couldn't go were the farm boys that had to be kept home to help work the farm. They got some designation, and they were the only ones you got to dance with at the dances. You always carried perfume on you, because their hands would smell like the cows that they milked.

Daniels: I did know one guy, and he was a heavy drinker, a party-type guy. He wasn't a Catholic, I don't think, and if he was, he wasn't a devout one. He enlisted in the priesthood. We all thought that was really far-out – he was the least likely guy. He must have been avoiding the draft.

Charles C. Drawbaugh: I know some guys that put soap under their arms to make fevers before they went up for the exam and things like that. They made themselves appear more sick than they were.

Scott: When I was a graduate student in 1943 at Columbia University, I was living in one of the undergraduate dorms of Barnard College. I dated during that year a young man who was himself not a conscientious objector, but he was a 4-F. He was very much interested in the arts. We spent a lot of time going to music and opera and museums, and I was just enjoying the best that New York had to offer while the war was going on.

Betty McDowell: There were quite a few 4-F's around. If they had a good reason, people accepted them. But if they didn't have a good reason, they didn't.

Harold Hollenbach: I attached an importance to the work that I was doing [at Bethlehem Steel]. Somebody had to be there, turning out the munitions. That's not to say that I could push aside my guilt feelings [about being 4-F].⁸

Maynard Barnhart, Jr.: I left high school and went to work at the Martin Marietta Company in Baltimore. We built the TBM-3 and the B-26 bombers. I worked down there for two years, almost three. I had a 4-A deferment, and I could have stayed out, because I was a foreman in the hydraulic department.

In my elementary school class, there were eight of us; by the time I'd begun work at Martin, two had been lost in the war. When I came home, my parents referred to me as a "draft dodger." So I left and joined the air force.

Williams: When I realized I would not be deferred by the phone company, I fully believed that my place was more in technological warfare than in the trenches. I looked for work that was deferred, and I was offered a job at the Naval Research Laboratory. It was quite boring. A classmate from college called and suggested an interview at the radiation lab at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology]. Which of course I knew nothing about: it was very, very secret. I was interviewed up there and offered a job. I was there till the end of the war.

B. McDowell: During the war, they had an armory in Burlington [VT] on High Street, and that was filled – I don't know how many men lived there. They lived right in the armory, and they had work that they would do there. They had to live by military rules, but they could come in to town, and a lot of women got husbands with the men living at the armory. They had a special classification – there was something wrong and they couldn't be in the regular military army and go overseas, but they could do a lot of work here. I imagine a lot of it was clerical, but I don't know, because we never knew what they did.

Pritchard: A lot of the guys would eat bananas, so that they would put on enough weight to get into the army. Can you imagine that?

Ruthe Fortenbaugh Craley: The ladies of the town gave every boy drafted a box of candy to take. Everyone got one and ate it on the way over, and when they got tested, they all checked out with high blood sugar.

⁸ *Hollenbach subsequently was accepted into service and served in the 572nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion.*



Maybelle Bogle: My brother went off and volunteered. He didn't tell my mother.

Glen Harner: Dad wanted me to stay on the farm, which was a deferment. But I decided my buddy and I were going into the Marine Corps, and we went to Harrisburg and enlisted. I didn't get home for three years. I went right from Harrisburg to Philadelphia, and I called my dad that night. He said, "Where are you?" I said, "The YMCA in Philadelphia." He said, "Where are you going?" I said, "Parris Island." He said, "Where's that?" I said I had no idea, and I didn't. But I found out real quick where it was.⁹

Heiges: I remember seeing those navy memarching up to Riverside Church [in Manhattan], and knowing that so many of them wouldn't come back.

Beulah Gotwalt: My husband didn't expect to come back.

Norma Jean Thompson: One of the first people to go and sign up was our paperboy. We all felt badly that we would be losing him, and of course we all said goodbye to him. Everybody gave him big tips on his last week and wished him well. He subsequently was killed at Iwo Jima.

Gilbert Derrenberger: I tried to lie about my age, and they caught me. Said, "You come back in six months." So six months to the day, on my birthday, I was down there. That sergeant was waiting for me, 'cause he knew I was coming back. It wasn't two or three days later that I had my mother and father sign the papers, and we were heading down to Norfolk on the Old Bay Line for basic training.

Maher: As soon as any girl my age would meet any single man that was not in the service, we were immediately suspicious: why wasn't he? They always gave some medical excuse.

⁹ Parris Island, South Carolina, is the major U.S. site for the training of Marine Corps recruits.

John C. DiCerbo: I was around 17 when we were attacked, and my friends and I from the American Legion, without telling our parents, went down to sign up for the Marine Corps. My friends passed the test and I didn't, because I had poor eyesight. I felt kind of lost, because my buddies were joining and I was rejected.

Ernest Leer: You had quite a few heated discussions, or maybe just examining oneself – wondering about the Christian way, and how Christ felt we should live in peace rather than in conflict.

Evans: There were two kinds of pacifist groups who were against the war. One was a pro-German group in the United States called America First. Then there were a great many people that I happened to know who were Quakers or conscientious objectors – true pacifists. They were pacifists from the highest ideal.

Hinkeldey: There were a few people on the Gettysburg College campus that were actually pacifists. They didn't support the war at all; they thought it was terrible. Our librarian, John Knickerbocker, was a pacifist. We didn't necessarily agree with him, but he was a very gentle soul.¹⁰

Stuempfle: We had a young, unmarried Methodist minister as a neighbor. He was an extreme pacifist who had not even registered for the draft, and he wound up in prison my senior year in high school. That was an impressive thing to me at that time, because it raised all the moral questions about the war. But I think we all felt that something had to be done to stop what was going on over there. I was never fully persuaded, much like all of us who thought about it before the war, that absolute pacifism was the response that should be made.

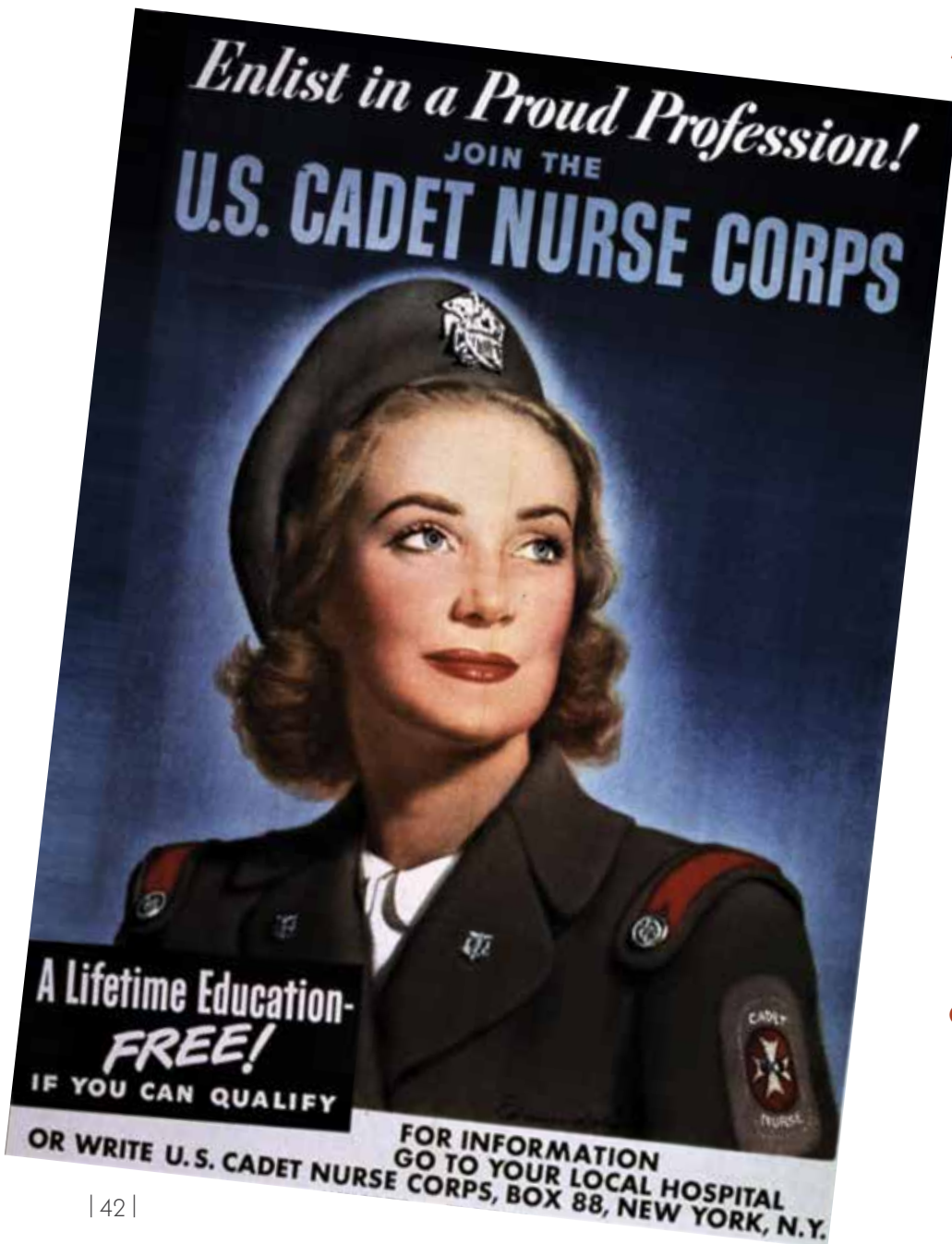
Van Brakle: Juniata [College] was a Brethren college; the Brethren Church are pacifists. The church would represent conscientious objectors. There were a lot at the College who were not Brethren, and even some who were Brethren, who enlisted in the service. As a basis of the College's belief, we were surrounded by pacifists, and they many times were not very well thought of. Some thought they were just trying to save their own skins.



John Knickerbocker, c. 1940s.

¹⁰ John Knickerbocker (1895-1964) was Gettysburg College's first full-time professional librarian. He worked at the College from 1929 to 1964.

Louise Pilgrim: And then you had your men that did not believe in killing in a war, but were still in the service. They were with the medics in the back lines; they were not allowed to carry a rifle or anything with the fighting. But a lot of the conscientious objectors were in the service, and they never got credit for it, really.



John Fehringer: A number of people in our Lutheran church were conscientious objectors on the basis of the fact that we teach "Thou shalt not kill." They were opposed to killing. I had several individuals who were conscientious objectors, one being my own son, who could not serve in the armed forces because he felt that he could not take another person's life.

Lawrence Folkemer: I was not an absolute pacifist, but pretty close. That was probably the result of contact with Quakers, members of the Society of Friends. I am basically a pacifist, but in that case with Adolf Hitler, I simply could not be. I felt, and subsequently, in looking back, still feel, that that was probably one of the most justifiable wars. I'm not sure any of them since then have been.

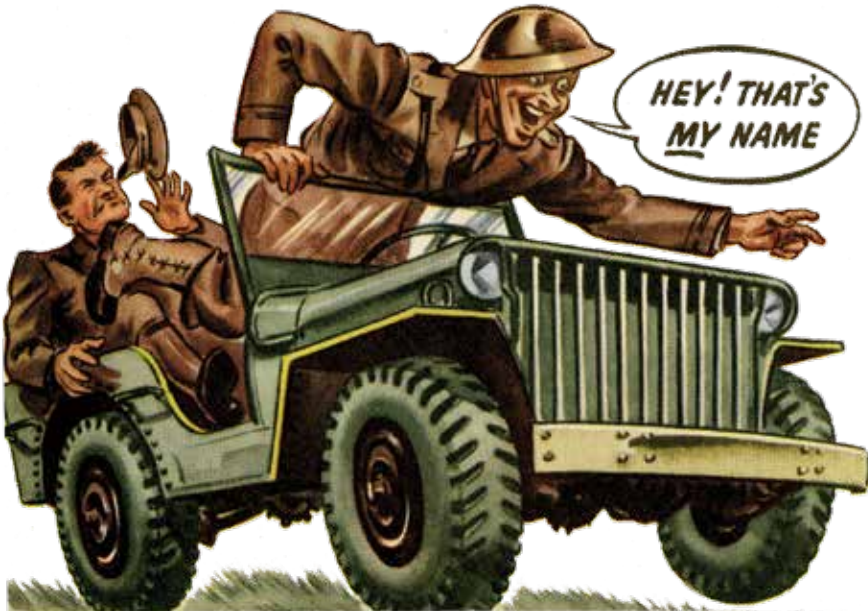
George Bixler: I wanted to fight the Japs. I wanted to see action. After I saw it, I wish I wouldn't have seen it. But I did see it.

– CHIPPING IN –

World War II inspired a level of civilian participation unprecedented in American history. Citizens were urged, on one hand, to save their income, but also to spend it on such supportive measures as war bonds and stamps. The United Service Organizations (USO), established in 1941 as a source of comfort and aid for US service members, allowed many Americans, especially women, to contribute directly to military need. Encouraged by regular patriotic appeals, people found many other ways to contribute, from writing letters and knitting sweaters to conducting salvage drives, spotting planes, and other civil-defense activities.

Davis: We were in high school, and we all wanted to do something to help with the war effort. I traveled with a group of four girls; we had nothing in common, but we were the closest teenage friends. The shoe factory in Littlestown was taken over into an army raincoat factory. Now, we fibbed – we said we were 16, but we were all 15. They needed help desperately in these factories, so we went to work. I spent one summer there, and I was so tired when I came home I went straight to bed, and couldn't even eat supper sometimes. My father said, "Well, it's a good thing. She won't be out on the streets at night." I would weld these seams. You would put this rubber glue down the seam, and you ran this roller all day long. Army raincoats all day long!

This special stationery encouraged civilians to write servicemen overseas.



Holder: There was a knitting effort going on that my sister and I were involved in. We were not good knitters, but I think it was worthwhile. Warm socks and scarves and that sort of thing.

Davis: We made sweaters for the navy and the army. We had a teacher that was a fabulous knitter, and she'd have to correct all the mistakes when you got to the neck. That was a big deal during the war: a lot of schools had these knitting classes. We made plain navy-colored sweaters for the navy, and khaki for the army. Even the boys knitted.

Evans: We knitted all the time. We made afghans, we made socks, we made mittens, we made all kinds of things. My mother rolled bandages; that was before the day of the prepackaged bandage. Women would do this the way women might have gotten together previously in a garden club or bridge club. They got together, and they rolled bandages and knitted.

Kathleen Hudson: We rolled bandages; once a week we would get together. They had to be just perfect – everything measured with a ruler.

James Waters: We went out and collected scrap paper. We collected kitchen grease. We had a drive at school to collect scrap metal and I think there was a prize – a \$25 war bond. I won one, for being one of the top guys. I would go into the woods with my little wagon, collect metal, and bring it to school.



Young women attending USO-sponsored dances were required to fill out these cards and have them signed by a guardian.

Johnson: We all took Red Cross courses. We would meet at different women's houses and learn how to splint arms, how to put on a shoulder splint, and how to splint legs, and how to help people if they were having breathing problems.

Kathryn Schultz: One day I was volunteering. When they gave blood, some of them would get sick, and if they really got sort of half-sick – not throwing up, but you could tell they would – then you would tell them to put their head down. So this man was sitting at the table. Mrs. Mason was there quite a bit, because she gave a lot of her time for this. He was saying, "Oh, I feel dizzy. Oh, I feel terrible," and she said, "Put your head down." She just went like *this* – and banged his head on the table.

Arlene Sanstedt: If we could get enough sugar to make cookies, some of us would make cookies to send overseas. That's when I learned how to pack cookies in popcorn: that's how they made it overseas without too much crumbling. We'd make cookie bars more often, because it was something that wouldn't get all crushed in the mail.

Roberta Crane: My husband wanted little boxes of cereal and soup sent to him. He would put the soup on the manifold or something in the car or truck they were driving, and it would be hot when they got there. Fudge in a block, so if it got moldy at all, it would just be on the outside.

Johnson: We gave a lot of books to the soldiers. They couldn't have books too much in their trenches and foxholes. We would strip our libraries, almost. I wish now that I had some of those books back. But at the time we were happy to do it.

Louise Bream: We had a small organization of the USO, and I helped with that. We had an office where we would entertain the soldiers, or anyone that was home on leave and would like to come in. It was up on Chambersburg Street, on the first block going west. That was fun, because we had music and dancing and entertainment for them.

Buehler: Buses of girls went over to dance with the boys, and I chaperoned. As I came around the corner into this room, the overhead was playing "Sentimental Journey"¹¹ – they always played that when we went into a camp. It was a pretty unfortunate episode, because the girls weren't all pretty: the pretty ones were over-danced, and the plain girls nobody asked to dance. There were some pretty sad hearts.

¹¹ *Written in 1942, "Sentimental Journey" was often performed during the war, though a musicians' strike prevented it from being recorded until 1945. A hit version by Les Brown and His Band of Renown, with a vocal by Doris Day, coincided with the end of the war in Europe.*

Alphonse Struzinski: As the war went on, we were working every day, and we got wind of one of my pals in the neighborhood coming home for the weekend. We made arrangements to meet with him and keep him company until he went back. Then when he went away, the next week, somebody else came. Or somebody's home for a week, because he's shipping overseas – they give him a week off to stay with his family, so we kept him busy. And then he went. So in a sense, my job was entertaining.

Baird: There were loads of young men in town that went to war, and they would have friends over there that had nobody to write to them. My high school years were spent writing an awful lot of letters. I even had one young man I wrote to – I don't know how I got his name – in England. I should have saved his letters, because he printed like a machine. It was beautiful. Just wrote about common, ordinary things. I would write about walking on the hay in the haywagon. Maybe I even talked about going for the cows, for all I know.

E. Fortenbaugh: Lots of letter-writing. And if they were killed, the letters that you sent would come back "Return to sender," with "DECEASED" marked on them.

The widespread unemployment of the 1930s was reduced drastically by World War II. The demand for war goods – from munitions to clothing to food – created a surge in jobs, particularly in and around urban centers. The enormous labor gaps left by the draft meant that workforces previously segregated by sex, race, and age now experienced an influx of female, African-American, and retired applicants. The number of unemployed Americans dropped from 7.7 million in early 1940 to 700,000 in the fall of 1944.

Robert Fidler: The navy built a depot over by Mechanicsburg – it's still active. That was built in '41 or '42. Letterkenny was an army depot out by Chambersburg. That's another thing that opened. York had a lot of factories, and a lot of them were doing war work.

Bogle: I didn't do any war work, but my neighbor did; she worked where they used to make these cement blocks. I think everybody that helped out that way felt proud. The war brought us out of the Depression, so when they got a chance to go to work, they were glad to do it. My husband worked in Waltham [MA] at Raytheon, which made all the things for war.

Barbara Jean Chase: Summers, I worked for a little defense plant called Cambridge Instruments. They made parts for the Norden bombsight; they also made electrocardiograms and hearing aids.¹²

Nancy Hammett: My sister and I took jobs in factories to make instruments like walkie-talkies, whatever we could put together with our hands. It was a revelation to us, because we'd never been around factory people before, and the way they talked! They told a lot of dirty stories and things like that. My sister and I were very naïve, and we just closed our ears most of the time.

Barbara Platt: During the war, I worked in what they called an adjutant general's depot [in Columbus, OH], which took care of all the printed material for all the army bases east of the Mississippi. It was a big place, and there were a lot of what I would have to say were poorly educated white men. A couple of them, because I was a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed 18-year-old, were very happy to follow me around. And there were big rows of boxes they could hide behind, so I was a little uncomfortable.

Their supervisor was an African-American man called Bunny Kelly, and I mentioned to Bunny that I was uncomfortable. He said, "You stay with me, and you'll be just fine." I think he talked to these guys; he told them, "Leave this kid alone." I was never bothered after that. I remember that guy with great affection.

Richard Godman: You see the buoys out in the harbors? We made those. We had quite a big program of them going on. Us group of boys still going to the Maryland Institute would get off on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at six, go to school till 10, and then go home, eat a meal, go to sleep, get up, eat breakfast, and go to work.

Peterson: Near the end of the war, when I was 14 years old, I got a job at Carnegie-Illinois Steel Company. I was working a man's job at age 14.

¹² The Norden bombsight, an aiming device for aerial bombardment, was used by the U.S. Army Air Forces and the U.S. Navy during World War II, and later in the Korean War.





Washington calling!

Earl Godwin, dean of the White House Press Correspondents and nationally known NBC commentator on events in the Capital, says:

To take care of the Nation's business in the emergency
**Thousands More of Well-Educated, Well-Trained
Men and Women Are Needed in the Civil Service**

You were supposed to be 18 to do this type of work, but we lied about our age. Nobody cared; everybody knew that kids and women were working in these types of places. We would shovel manganese into the blast furnaces. It was so hot you couldn't stand to do it for more than 20 minutes. So we would take a 20-minute break and have a cigarette.

Russell Campbell, Jr.: My father was Business Manager at Gettysburg College, but he and his brother also ran a business. It was a shoe business originally, but leather became very scarce, so they went into war work and made muzzle covers for 155-millimeter cannons.

Murphy: My father was a control production supervisor at the Gleason Works [in Rochester, NY], which at the time was about the only company in the nation that built gear-cutting machines. They made gears that were the size of a room, for battleships. We had a lot of industry in the town, and we were considered a strategic target from a warfare standpoint.

Daniels: My father was too old to serve, I guess, and anyway, he was in a defense industry. He was an executive in a small manufacturing company that made contracting supplies – concrete mixers and things like that. But they were able, during the war, to make other things.

Williams: I was involved at MIT in the design of something called the C-1 timer. The LORAN¹³ system, which was the concern of the group I was in – Division 11, Radiation Lab – used accurately timed pulse signals, and the part of the system that created the timing was a device called the timer. There was a new design needed, which became known as the C-1 timer, and I spent my entire time there on that.

Staub: The Musselman Company started to haul potatoes down from Maine. Trainload after trainload of potatoes – they had a bumper crop up there they didn't know what to do with, so they brought them down and made alcohol out of them. Now, potatoes make a special kind of alcohol – to float compasses. They made alcohol up there pretty much during the whole war.

Musselman also started to put fruit into what we called #10 cans, like a gallon can. The war is what started that trend, and after the war, institutions started buying them too – before that, you never put anything like that in cans that big. But they did for that, and Musselman Company, which is now a division of Knouse in Biglerville, sold tons and tons of applesauce to the service – my God!

Almost everybody got involved, one way or another. Hanover Shoe Farms down there, they donated horses.¹⁴ Especially in Europe, when the roads got muddy and stuff, horses really came in handy.

Stuempfle: In my first or second year of seminary, I was assigned for weekends to a parish in downtown Baltimore. There was always a large influx of new members; many had come to work in the increased industries, or were wives of servicemen who came there for their husbands' port leave and decided to stay while their husbands were overseas. I was very much aware of women working in the industries. Baltimore was a source of jobs, particularly for people coming from the South.

¹³ *Long Range Radio Aid to Navigation.*

¹⁴ *Hanover Shoe Farms (founded 1926) is a horse-breeding farm in Hanover, PA.*

Hull: A lot of people went to Baltimore and places like that to get into the war effort, as far as working is concerned. You felt like you were out in the cold and weren't doing anything if you weren't involved that way, believe me.

Struzinski: When I went to the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, I wound up working in the electrical department. It meant going into all these different buildings where they make the shells, the hand grenades, where they are inventing things to help the war along.

I would have a job there as a helper, and eventually become an electrician. But if the war should end, I would be one of the first released, because the serviceman would be coming back, and he'd have priority. He has every right to come back to his old job, which was interrupted because of the war, and I knew my job there would terminate whenever the war ended. But I think I served a purpose by being there.





UNITED WE WIN

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WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION • WASHINGTON, D. C.

– WOMEN’S ROLES –

The social and cultural reverberations of women’s contributions to the war effort were substantial. Few Americans questioned, and most applauded, the presence of women in such previously all-male realms as warehousing, heavy industry, and assembly lines. The American woman’s vital role in national defense was represented by “Rosie the Riveter,” subject of an iconic propaganda poster, a popular song, and a Norman Rockwell painting; but women found themselves newly valued in many other unfamiliar roles as well.

Janet Wickerham: It was only after World War II that women began to come into their own. Before that we did just what our grandmothers did, and nobody questioned anything. You were a mother, or you taught, or you got married.

Thompson: That’s the biggest change of all – that suddenly they needed women. And women were anxious to do that. I think it was one of the major beginnings of the whole women’s movement in this country, I really do.

Chase: When the guys weren’t there, this meant that there were jobs in defense plants that were critical to produce planes and ships and munitions and jeeps and things like that. Many women who would never have before conceived of working were in the workforce.

Evans: “The woman behind the man behind the gun.” That was the woman in industry.

Scott: Now women were running buses and streetcars and trucks. There were women who were mining in the coalfields of West Virginia, who had never before worked in that respect. I did not see it as a great social protest movement at all, it was just women being called upon to do men’s jobs, all of a sudden. For which they were not very well-prepared – but they rose to the occasion.

The more **WOMEN** at work
the sooner we **WIN!**





Left: Women at work on bomber, Douglas Aircraft Company, Long Beach, CA.

Right: Woman hand-drilling an A-31 Vengeance bomber, Nashville, TN.

Sanstedt: Rosie the Riveter appeared on a poster, encouraging women to apply for jobs in the factories – jobs that had been left vacant by the men being drafted or going in the service. Rosie, of course, was depicted as a lively, energetic gal with a helmet and eye protector for riveting and so forth. Those posters were really prevalent.

Thompson: The movie cameras used to go through the factories and show women, and all the women had to wear these babushka things around their heads to keep their hair from getting caught in the machinery and everything. Women had to dress with big heavy shoes and things, if they were in an area where they were working with steel and metal and all that.

Friday: That was inspiring. To think that all these women had left their homes and gone to work in the mills, and they were so proud to be doing their job. And that made a lot of money for me – because I got to babysit the kids that were left behind.

Mary Frances Copenhaver: I worked at the rubber factory to make pocket money while going to college. Wages were very small; if I remember correctly, about \$16 a week is what people got, unless they were in supervisory positions or worked overtime. We were making raincoats and ponchos for the service.

Daniels: They didn't have at that time much in the way of day-care facilities. I remember my mother was a total activist, and had been working on something they called a "day nursery," for women who had to work.

Sahm: A lot of the mothers worked in the factories in the evening, while the fathers that weren't in the service took care of the kids, or the grandmothers took care of the kids. A lot of people who had farms, the women worked on the farms, and a lot of the time the men would work on the farm while the women went to the factories. It worked both ways.

Davis: We were thrown in with some pretty hardcore factory workers – some of these women. We had this lady boss that would come around and say, "Now these are teenage girls, and I don't want that kind of language." Then, of course, they'd talk about their sex lives and things I'd never heard of. My ears went out like this.

Joy Nelson Mara: I worked at a couple of factories. I still think a lot of us were kind of surprised, in an embittered sense, when we found out that we were getting about half as much as the fellow that had left to go into the service.

Pritchard: I had a girlfriend, Betty, that got a job at Bethlehem Steel, and from what she told me, I didn't want a job there. It was a free-for-all! I think the men would take advantage of the women, and the women would take advantage of the men. What's that called – the "house key exchange." They would leave their keys on the table, and whatever key they picked up was the guy they'd go home with. That's why I didn't want to go to Bethlehem Steel!

Maher: Some men did resent it. They felt that their places were being usurped by women, and they found it a little difficult in some situations. I believe that they saw how well women were doing, and were being promoted and doing work that at one time they thought they couldn't or shouldn't, and I think it did threaten men.

Evans: At first there was a certain amount of joking about it, and I think they got kidded a little bit. But actually it was quite a move toward women's liberation, because they found that they could do a lot of the jobs that they had never thought they could do. The men that they worked with, I think they really came to respect them.

Jean Keller: They were homemakers, and they went to work in the factories. That just filled me with pride.

Friday: The lady I babysat for suddenly started looking very mannish. She would have these pants on that we weren't accustomed to, and short hair – most women had longer hair – and she would go off with her lunch bucket to work every day.

Holder: The mother of one of my girlfriends went to work in a local factory; I've forgotten what they were making. It was just routine assembly line work she was doing, but I think she did it with some pride. It was probably more money than she had ever made.

Carey Moore: My Aunt Grace, who was 60 years of age – never worked out of the home in her life – proceeds to get a job on the graveyard shift at a parachute factory. Goes out at 10, 10:30 at night to get the streetcar, then she's got to transfer, and then she's got to transfer again. She gets there, she works from 12 to eight, and then she comes home. That gave Aunt Grace a sense of independence, which she had never had, and it gave her her own income, which she had never had.

Maher: You felt much more independent – able to take care of yourself – and you felt you were really helping the war effort. You were doing something useful. I found it much more interesting to be out in the work force, rather than running the sweeper. You were with people, and saw how life went. I didn't realize how nice it would be to go out and work. To feel you're doing something useful, and come into contact with so many people.

Corbin: My stepfather became service manager for one of the major garages in Harrisburg. It's still there – Brenner Motors. He would conduct classes in the evening for the war effort, volunteer stuff. Women would come in who were working in men's roles in the plants, and they didn't know how to maintain a car; they didn't know how to change a tire. Or a Red Cross group of women would come in, and he'd teach them how to change a tire, and do things like that.

Crane: I had a flat tire, and made the mistake of not blocking the front wheel when I got the tire out, and it bent the jack, so I was just stuck. I would flag cars going by; there weren't very many. This was out in the middle of Missouri or someplace, I don't know where. Finally a car went by and put the brake lights on – I can still see it. It was a naval officer with beautiful luggage in the back seat, and his wife, and at least one child. He loaned me his jack and I jacked up the car and put the other tire on, while he stood and watched me. When I gave it back to him, he said, "You look as though you've done this before," and I said, "Yes, I have."

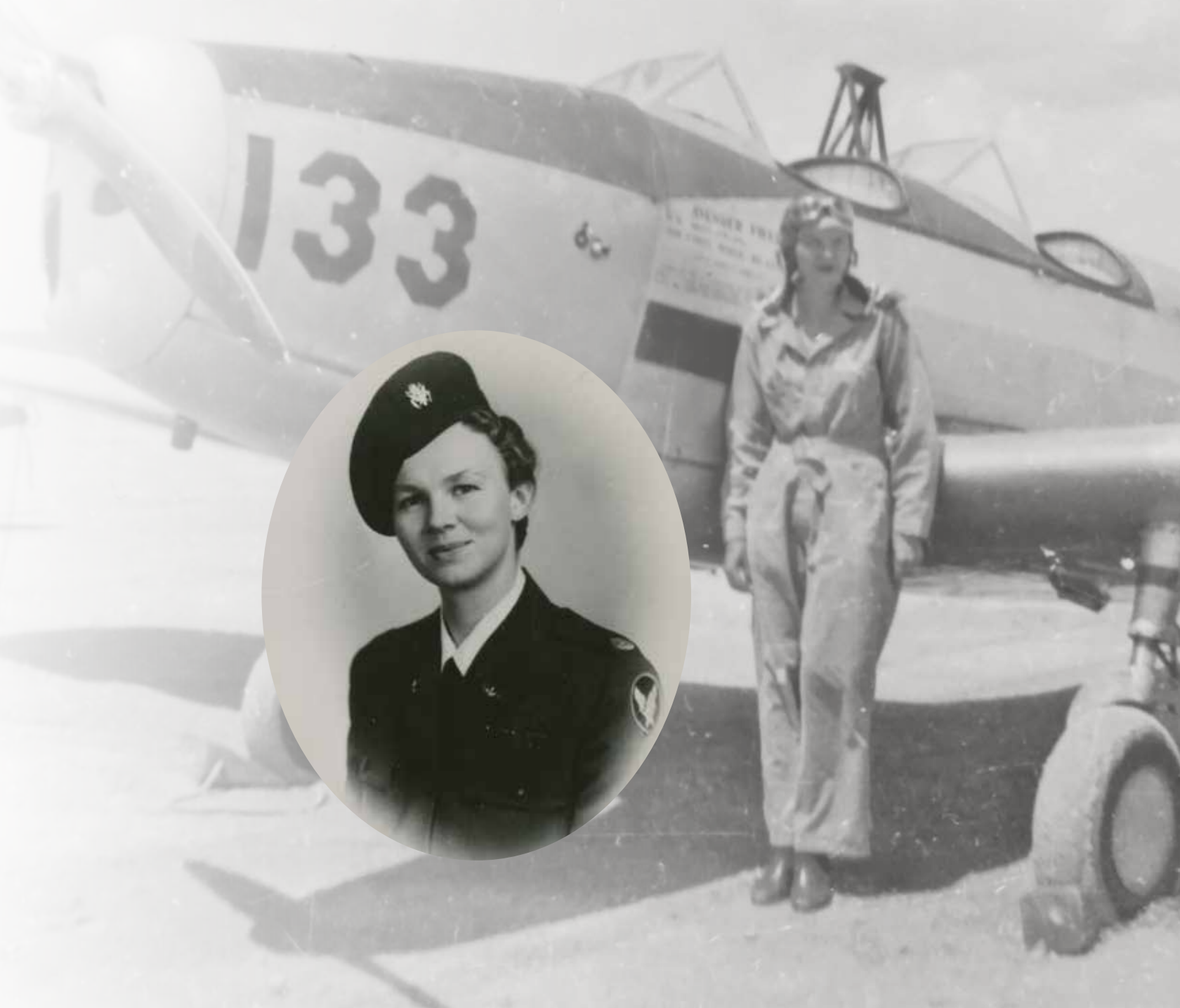
D. Davis: I worked for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, as a stenographer. We were taking the statistics right from the battlefields, as they would come in. We'd know how many were dying, how many were fatally struck, and all that. It was a sad job.

Pilgrim: My aunt was a state nurse, and when I was a high school senior, I took a nurse's aide course under her. I had all my classes in the morning, and in the afternoons I went to Chambersburg Hospital and worked as a nurse's aide. Then Dad signed my papers, and I went into the navy.

Mara: I wanted to join the Marines. My future husband and family wouldn't hear of it!

Sullivan: I can remember being out in the orchard with a group of men doing something in apple trees. A plane went over, and I said, "Someday I'm going to fly one of those." That was prophetic, or it was my mindset.

Elizabeth Sullivan (née McGeorge) next to her Fairchild PT 19 training plane, and in military dress uniform.



To join the Women's Air Service Pilots [WASP], we got 35 hours of flying time, and then took a test to get a private pilot's license. By the time I had finished and gotten my private ticket, they had closed the advanced training to women, because they were already sure that they were training enough young men to go into the Army Air Corps.

What we did as WASP ferry pilots was pick up planes from the factory where they were built and fly them to where they were going to be used. From New Castle [Army Air Base in Wilmington, DE] we ferried the primary trainers across the United States. After about three months there, the group of us were sent on to Kansas City, KS, a tiny base of about 200 men, I think. There were 20 of us WASPs dumped down on this unfortunate man who said, "What the hell am I going to do with them?" So he used us as best he could.

He sent us out as co-pilots on B-25s. We also flew C-47s, which were the army's version of the DC-3. I would say probably my least favorite airplane was the AT-9. A nasty little airplane. It had been built to be the training plane for Martin's first B-26s, which were known as "Martin's Prostitutes" because they had no visible means of support.

I was doing exactly what I wanted to do, in airplanes I never would be able to fly on my own.

Chase: And then, when those guys came home, those women were expected to give up those jobs.

Phifer: There was quite an uproar when some of the women didn't want to give up their jobs. The men got ticked off because they said the women were taking their jobs away from them. I thought it was great that the women could drive those buses, and drive those trolley cars, and get out and work like that.

Mara: Did we feel, as women, left out of things when the boys came back? I would say no! By then we were already going ahead and doing things. We kept on. While the fellas were gone we started wearing men's shirts and rolling up the collar of our blue jeans. You know, it was scandalous! You never wore slacks or anything! Didn't matter if you were freezing to death – you wore a skirt! Well, that changed. The girls got together and we told them, "We are not going to walk as far as we have to walk to get between classes and not be warmly dressed." So they backed down.

Holder: I think it removed some of the stigma from factory work for women, and made women more willing to do that sort of thing after the war. Of course, when servicemen returned, they got their jobs back. Women were fired immediately. But having learned the skills, and having developed their self-confidence, they moved into other jobs. Female employment continued at a high rate after the war, so I think there was a real transformation here.

Geyer: I ended up much stronger. I was the last of five kids, and was terribly spoiled, and I got my way whenever I wanted. So I wasn't a particularly nice person. I think this really gave me more strength than I ever thought I had.

Fehringer: Looking back, I personally wonder if it was that good, because we got very much in the mood of having more money. No one was willing to go back to one person in the family working, and I think it hurts families.

Friday: Women were going to fight more for what they wanted, and they weren't just content to stay home anymore. They wanted to be out in the world, more than they had been.

Sahm: This is the beginning of "women's lib," really.

Martha Schaffer: I think it's too bad it took a war to do it.

Bogle: Before, a woman's place was in the home, and during the war they found out that they could do plenty of other things besides housework. That made a woman proud.

Left: Turret lathe operator, Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, Fort Worth, TX.

Right: Riveters working on a C-47 cockpit, North American Aviation, Inglewood, CA.



– PATRIOTISM AND MORALE –

Clarity of purpose and awareness of common enemies – aspects usually absent from later wars – kept the American home front united throughout the victories and losses of the war. A streamlined propaganda campaign involving the coordinated efforts of Washington war offices, Hollywood movie studios, and New York radio stations kept the public fed with patriotic imagery, music, drama, and news. Whatever their age or social status, virtually all Americans’ patriotic instincts were evidenced across a broad front of activities.

Cox: You could not *believe* the patriotism. You couldn’t help but feel it all over.

Haas: Once the war broke out, it united the country. It didn’t matter what your politics were, what your religion was; it didn’t matter what color you were. You were an American first.

Friday: Everybody backed the war, and everybody was a part of it as best they could be. And we knew we’d be victorious. We just knew that.

Royals: I never thought we were going to lose. Our country was just so motivated and so bound together in the common cause of defeating the Axis nations.

Dorothy Craver: It wasn’t like during the Vietnam War, where people were rebellious against it. I think they followed the leadership of President Roosevelt, who said this was something we had to do, and we’re going to do it well.

Corbin: There was no doubt who the enemy was. If somebody were talking against the war effort and the defense of this country, they would be such an oddball. There would have been nothing like you had during the Vietnam War, and Hanoi Jane and other people.¹⁵

¹⁵ “Hanoi Jane” was the derisive nickname given to actress Jane Fonda, who was photographed with North Vietnamese soldiers on a trip to Hanoi in 1972.



Geyer: Kate Smith was someone who could belt out a song better than Judy Garland. You've probably heard her version of "God Bless America." But the one that would really bring tears to my eyes was "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition." It was a wonderful song; they'd sing it at every war bond rally.

Baird: Everybody had a flag, and you would have the Memorial Day parade. One thing that always happened on Memorial Day was that an old lady recited the Gettysburg Address in the Methodist section of the cemetery. Every year the same old lady did it in the same voice, and she of course didn't get any younger. Her voice was old from the first time I heard her, and she would recite the Gettysburg Address at the flag or a central point in the cemetery.

Bogle: During the war you had to depend upon your neighbor, and I think we became much closer together. We had one cause, and we all wanted to win.




Kate Smith



Keller: I'm already weeping when I think about patriotism and the flag. We just worked together. It brought us together. We were all striving for one thing, and that was to get this war over and bring our sons and husbands home.

C. Moore: There was a difference in attitude toward the Germans and the Japanese. The Germans in many ways were like us. But the Japanese were foreigners, and inferior.

Haas: Everyone just despised the Japanese. We called them "sneaky little people." If you wanted to insult somebody, that's what you called them.



Members of the Mochida family awaiting evacuation by bus, Haywood, CA, May 8, 1942.

The villainy of Hitler's Germany and Hirohito's Japan was reinforced in poster imagery, films, songs, and cartoons. Harsh and, in the case of the Japanese, racist propaganda was commonplace. The most shameful domestic policy of the war was President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9906, signed February 19, 1942, requiring western-based Japanese-Americans to be interned in remote relocation camps. Popular at the time, and sanctioned by the U.S. Supreme Court, this executive order was formally overturned by the Court in June 2018.

Baird: I couldn't tell you, for fear of being politically incorrect at this time, some of the songs that were sung then. There was one nasty one:

*We're gonna slap that dirty little Jap,
and Uncle Sam's the guy who can do it.
Oh, I wouldn't fool you, Mister, he can raise an awful blister
and somebody's pants will burn before he's through it.
We're gonna take that double-crosser to the woodshed,
we'll start right at his bottom and we'll go to his head.
When we're done with him, he'll wish that he was dead!
Now Uncle Sam's a man who has given a hand
to many a foreign land, and don't forget it.
But when somebody goes to stomp on his toes,
he better watch his nose or he'll regret it!*

C. Moore: "Jap" was synonymous with treachery. Surprise quizzes were known as "Japs."

Markle: There was an awful lot of feeling in this country that the Germans were bad, period. Not just Hitler. There were lots of people who would say that the only good German is a dead one.

Chase: We had a German bakery in [Ossining, NY] run by the Aschermann family. Local kids would go down and work there. The rumor was out that Mr. Aschermann was a member of the German Bund.¹⁶ I think they were called fifth-column people, meaning they were here as spies, sending messages to Germany. Some people even accused him of keeping passenger pigeons, which was absurd. But his business began to drop off.

E. Fortenbaugh: My father worked for a very large Japanese company, Mitsubishi, and he was the head accountant for the U.S. I had always known Japanese people. There had been many Japanese people who had come to our home and would spend a week or a weekend. My perspective was not the same [as others'].

Hinkeldey: After Pearl Harbor, all the people of Japanese-American descent – Niseis, they were called – were rounded up and put into what you might as well call concentration camps. There were tens of thousands of people who were Japanese by birth and then immigrated to America. They made nice livings and were upstanding citizens. They were uprooted from their homes and taken to camps and spent the rest of the war years there.

¹⁶ The German American Bund was a pro-Nazi organization, founded in 1936 and intended to promote a favorable view of Hitler's Germany in the U.S.

Virginia Hershey Barriga: When the Japanese were put into camps, there was a reason for it. They may have been Japanese-Americans, but you didn't know how they were going to react. And the best place to put them would be in a concentration camp, and they'd be all together, and the military could take over in case they got rambunctious.

Evans: It was a very sad commentary on the way we treated people who were probably very good citizens. Many of them had even been born in this country, and they were interned. After the war, many years later, I met a Japanese woman who I became very friendly with, and her husband was very bitter, naturally, about what had happened. But she, for some reason, wasn't, and she said, "I could see how it would happen. I could see how people would be afraid."

We were being beaten up terribly in the Pacific. That's no excuse.

E. Fortenbaugh: My parents visited the camps. They were out on the West Coast on business, and they went to the stables that people were put in, and the racetracks. It wasn't good. They tried to get medicine and extra food in to the people that they knew. A couple of the people had serious medical problems and needed their medication, but they weren't getting it.



Dust storm at Manzanar War Relocation Center, photographed by Dorothea Lange.

Cox: To this day I feel like the Japanese who were interned should thank this country for rounding them up and keeping them like that, because I'm sure that if some of the Americans could have gotten to those people, they probably would have harmed them. People were just up in arms about the "Japs."

Bogle: The way I looked at it, I think the camps saved their lives. When they did that dirty trick to us and killed all those people, innocent people, without any warning, why then, everybody turned on them. And I'm telling you, people felt vicious. It wasn't a good time at all to be German, or Italian, or Japanese.

Robert Koons: At Union Theological Seminary [in New York City], there was a group of us in classes together. One of them was a young woman who was of Japanese origin, and lived in California. Her parents' home, I think, was confiscated. Here was a friend – we were a group of people who were in classes together, and did things together. We'd go downtown in New York together, and so on, and so she was kind of a summertime friend. All of us were feeling terrible for what was happening to her family out there.

Stuempfle: I don't think I ever bought into the idea of the "Japs" as being subhumans. That was a real effort on the part of the American propaganda machine to get us to see them as these little yellow monsters over there who were doing these horrible things. I think, due to the deep racism that is in all of us, it was much easier to stir hate against the yellow people of Asia than the white people of Europe.

Hinkeldey: It was a great injustice, and yet it was ordered by the president. They never, ever found a Japanese-American who was a spy.

Corbin: I was not conscious of any effort by my government to convince me to be patriotic. It never entered my mind that that was propaganda. A certain amount of it would have been selected information to make you feel better about your effort. Rather than to tell you that we were losing a certain ground in the Pacific in the early stages after Pearl Harbor, they're going to focus in on the positive stuff.

Now, some would call that propaganda. And if that's what it was, great. Because what it did was boost the morale of the public.

Conroy: The movies you got were suddenly all patriotic. And pretty terrible. All propaganda, truly. They puffed the line, they knew what their message was, and they got it out. A little shocking to think how in-step everything was.



These artifacts from a downed Japanese aircraft were preserved by Clarence Haldeman, a U.S. Army airplane mechanic stationed in the Pacific.

Campbell: There were a lot of crazy songs that came out. “When der Fuehrer says ve is the master race, ve heil [pfft] – ve heil [pfft] – right in der Fuehrer’s face.”¹⁷

And there was one about,

You’re a sap, Mr. Jap, to make a Yankee cranky.

You’re a sap, Mr. Jap, Uncle Sam is gonna spank ye.

Wait and see, before we’re done,

the A, B, C and D will sink your rising sun.

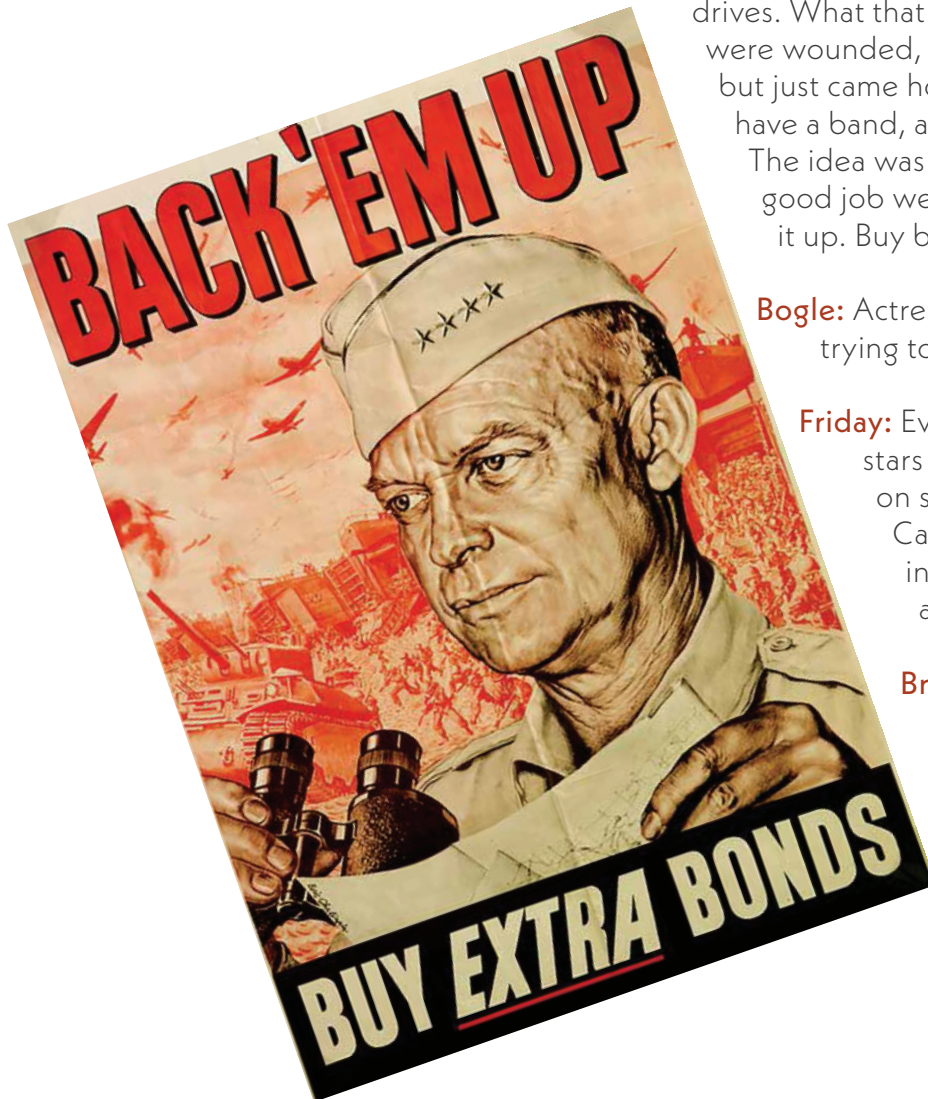
That was America, Britain, China, and Denmark.

Corbin: Spike Jones’s bands would have all kinds of funny songs that they would play and sing about Hitler, and it was fun to make fun of the enemy. You know, that’s nervous laughter. Either that, or you say “Woe is me” and go bash your head against a wall.

Murphy: I remember going to a movie theater in the middle of the war, and in the middle of the movie – it was just a regular commercial movie – they stopped it, the curtains opened up, and here’s an AAA [antiaircraft artillery] gun. They gave us a lecture on how these wonderful guns worked, the bombsights and things like that. We were one nation, that’s for sure.

¹⁷ “Der Fuehrer’s Face” was a hit for Spike Jones and His City Slickers in September 1942. The following year, it inspired a popular anti-Hitler propaganda cartoon starring Donald Duck, likewise titled Der Fuehrer’s Face.

Government-sponsored fundraising campaigns – including war bond rallies featuring Hollywood celebrities and war stamp drives in schools – were instrumental in bolstering and maintaining civilian morale as the war continued.



Campbell: They used to have what they called war bond drives. What that consisted of was a local hero – if he were wounded, or maybe he came through unscathed, but just came home. He'd make a speech, and they'd have a band, and a couple other people would talk. The idea was that he was to, in essence, say what a good job we were doing on the home front. "Keep it up. Buy bonds."

Bogle: Actresses and actors would be on the radio, trying to get you to buy war bonds.

Friday: Everybody bought a war bond. Movie stars used to go around the country and put on shows to sell bonds, like Clark Gable and Carole Lombard. In fact, she was killed in a plane accident while she was going around trying to sell war bonds.

Bream: I was asked to be chairman of the women's division of the fifth bond-selling campaign for Adams County. That's what I mainly did during the war period for my country. I enlisted leaders, women leaders, to help with the bond-selling. It was an exciting

time. We'd ride all over the county with our banners. I don't know that I accomplished a great deal, but it was a fun job, as well as very important at the time.

M. Louise Ramer: I happened to be the teacher who was in charge of that. We sold bonds twice a month in homerooms, and we had a contest as to the homeroom that would sell the most bonds. The room that won was treated on Friday, after school, to ice cream. The boys and girls took it very seriously, and they went out and they really sold bonds. During our campaign, we sold over \$1 million in bonds.

Jay Gross, Jr.: There's a famous World War II poster of a pilot. He's in a cockpit. He has a leather helmet on with goggles, and he has his thumb up, and he's saying, "You buy 'em, we'll fly 'em." That was for war bonds. That guy was from St. Marys [MD]. His name was Jordan Luhr; his dad was a doctor here in town. They used him for that poster. He was killed in a training accident, in a plane crash. (See facing page.)

Pritchard: We sold war stamps in school. Also, that was one of my jobs at the five-and-ten. We'd set up a table on a Saturday afternoon or a Saturday night, and we would sell these war stamps. These stamps were 10 cents, and you'd put them in a book, like green stamps, until you got a book. Then you'd take it to the bank, and you got a savings bond. I think it was \$18.75 in stamps, and then you could get a savings bond that would be worth \$25.

Campbell: I'm Russell E. Campbell, Junior. The first bond I bought with my own money, I was real proud of myself. I brought it home and showed my father, and he said, "Oh, thank you very much." It just said "Russell E. Campbell." He folded it up and put it in his pocket and went back to reading his newspaper.

I have signed "Junior" to my name ever since that day.

*"you buy 'em
we'll fly 'em!"*

W. Wilkinson

**DEFENSE
BONDS
STAMPS**



**USE IT UP – WEAR IT OUT –
*MAKE IT DO!***



OUR LABOR AND OUR GOODS ARE FIGHTING

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– CONSERVATION AND RATIONING –

As part of their patriotic contribution, Americans were urged to save and turn in all manner of scrap and waste product – solid and liquid, hard and soft – for repurposing as war materiel. Thrift and self-sufficiency were encouraged by way of homegrown “Victory Gardens,” and through the repair and reuse of clothing, car tires, and other common items. The rationing program – established by the Office of Price Administration in 1941, immediately after Pearl Harbor – restricted the domestic sale of rubber, fuel, sugar, coffee, butter, nylon clothing, and numerous other items, along with new automobiles and domestic appliances. The first War Ration Book, containing stamps allocating purchases of restricted items, went out in May 1942; a total of four would be issued in the course of the war.

Murphy: Everything had to be turned into war material. Nothing was wasted. A part of your daily life was to save things that would contribute to the war effort.

Staub: As kids, our main projects were tin cans. We had hand openers. We’d cut the top and bottom out, lay them down, and trample and smash them flat.

Campbell: Then you’d take the tin cans to school. I remember the trucks pulling in and loading big boxes of flattened cans. If you brought in enough, you got an award.

Murphy: Pieces of tinfoil.

Campbell: And rubber tires. Anything that was rubber, they recycled.

Friday: If there was a pack of cigarettes in the house, you’d save the silver lining that went around them, and you made little balls out of that.

C. Moore: I can remember Saturday mornings walking along the curb, picking up discarded packs of cigarettes, taking them home, putting them in water, and separating the tinfoil from the paper. Rolling it up, I'd get balls as large as duckpins. I'd take them in, getting, I think, two or three cents an ounce.

Chase: The newspapers all got hauled off. Daddy would put them in his car and take them someplace, and then the cans. Mom would save the fat in a Crisco can.

Davis: When you fried something, you would have a metal coffee can. You'd put a cheesecloth over the top, and you saved all of the frying fats and everything. It was used toward ammunition.

Bogle: They used to trim the fat off when you bought a slice of steak. Then, during the war, we used to get it with the fat on it, and we had to trim it off and save that fat. That was called a Chicago cut, and we never went back.

Waters: We went out and got milkweed pods, because they were used in flight jackets.

Staub: Milkweed – it was called kapok. They used it to stuff life preservers so they'd float. We'd gather that in big bagsful and take it in.

*Lincoln Square, Gettysburg,
during the war years.*



Scharf: Ordinarily, we would change the linen [at the Hotel Gettysburg] every day. But if guests were staying over, we wouldn't, because they were overworked, the laundries. The linens were all done at a special laundry out on Steinwehr Avenue – they came in and took the laundry every day, and brought it back again. But they were overworked, and they asked us to conserve.

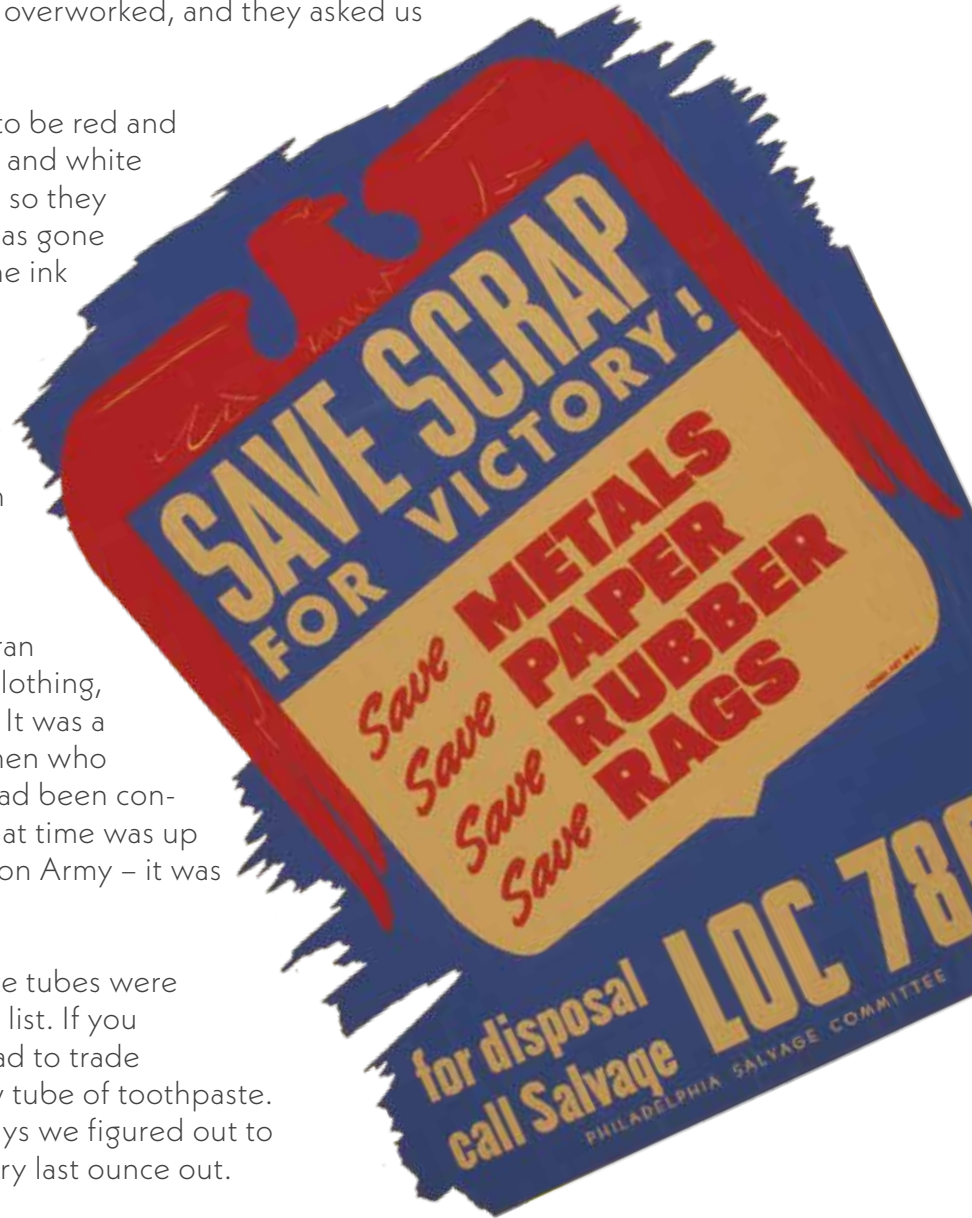
Campbell: Lucky Strike cigarettes used to be red and green. They realized that maybe red and white would be more attractive to the eye, so they started this big thing: "Lucky Strike has gone to war." They had you believe that the ink they were using for the green, they were now dyeing uniforms or painting tanks with.

Daniels: That was fairly common: somebody would make a production out of having done something for the war effort.

Burnite: We had what was called Lutheran World Action, where you'd donate clothing, and they'd make blankets and quilts. It was a tremendous outpouring for servicemen who were in need in the territories that had been conquered. Lutheran World Action at that time was up there with the Red Cross and Salvation Army – it was a powerful arm.

Jane Tilberg: Whatever metal toothpaste tubes were made out of was high on the priority list. If you had just finished using a tube, you had to trade it in; otherwise, you didn't get a new tube of toothpaste. You should have seen the unique ways we figured out to flatten toothpaste tubes and get every last ounce out.

Daniels: Some people would bring in the iron gates on their fences or something like that. Not everything was unwanted stuff.



How to bake by the Ration Book



Phifer: One lady was telling me that a neighbor of hers had a metal dog. It was maybe 15 inches high. When they started collecting metal for the war, she didn't want anybody to take it, so she hid it. She didn't want to give up her metal dog.

Best: There was rationing on sugar, I think. Coffee.

Staub: Tires, gasoline, sugar, fertilizer – because there were certain chemicals in fertilizers they used to make munitions. They'd put what they'd call a "freeze" on it.

Bogle: And of course you couldn't buy a new car, a children's wagon, or anything. They didn't make toys, even!

Phifer: People were trying to figure out what they would have to do without.

Cox: You found out that you could really do without a lot.

Paul Weirich: You signed up for a ration book. You had little stamps about this big – one unit, two units. Like, Stamp #17 was used for canned goods, Stamp #14 was used for meat; there were others too, of course. Like gasoline: you got "A," "B," "C," or "X." "A" got you four gallons of gas a month. If you had "B," you got about double that. If you worked for the government or had a defense job you could get "C," which gave you more, or you could get "X," which gave you unlimited. Most people, if you didn't use it for work, got "A." If you used it for work, you got "B."

Ration Book Holder
(Household)

FOR DEFENSE



Name

Donald C. Haynes

Address

1st Haynes Ave.

Barriga: I had a "B" card.

Bogle: If you were a defense worker, you got quite a few stamps for gasoline.

Campbell: The police and the sheriff and people like that had "X" stickers. But they were people that had a reason to be on the road.

Baird: You got so many rationing stamps a week, and if you used them all up before it was time to get the next one, then it was tough munchies.

Bill Spoon: You could barter them. If I needed shoes and we didn't have any ration stamps for shoes, but my mother was using honey for baking and we had stamps for sugar, my job was to go up and down the street and say to our neighbor ladies, "Hey, could you spare some stamps for shoes? I have sugar stamps I can trade you."

Hinkeldey: Gettysburg College asked every student to bring along his own personal rationing stamps from home, because that's the only way the College could have gotten any food to feed us.

Heiges: My husband was a Lutheran minister, and his position [in 1944-45] was to minister to the Lutheran students in New York City. I was having a little trouble with food stamps, because we had students to our apartment on Sunday evenings, and I would give them a light supper. To provide supper for maybe 40 students with food stamps took a bit of doing.

Rosamund McDowell: The autumn that my brother was declared missing in action, I went home for Christmas vacation on the train. I got home, and I had lost my ration book. Oh, my God. Nobody wanted any part of me.

Cox: My mother had a recipe for what we called the "no nothing" cake. She didn't use eggs, and she didn't use sugar. She had spices – I remember the spices and the raisins – and it was a moist, brown cake. She would boil all the ingredients on the stove, and then she would put it in a nine-by-13 dish and bake it. And it was really good.

Bogle: We always used to have sliced bread, and during the war they didn't slice the bread. Now, I don't know if that eliminated some man to go to war or what, 'cause I couldn't see that that saved anything. But we couldn't buy sliced bread.

Peterson: We ate things that people can't even imagine today. My mother was an excellent maker of brains, so we ate a good deal of brains and kidneys. They weren't the best parts, of course, but they were protein.

Americans!
SHARE THE MEAT
as a wartime necessity

To meet the needs of our armed forces and fighting allies, a Government order limits the amount of meat delivered to stores and restaurants.

To share the supply fairly, all civilians are asked to limit their consumption of beef, veal, lamb, mutton and pork to 2½ lbs. per person per week.

YOUR FAIR WEEKLY SHARE

Men, women and children over 12 yrs. old	2½ Pounds per week
Children 6 to 12 yrs. old	1½ Pounds per week
Children under 6 yrs. old	¾ Pound per week

You can add these foods to your share: liver, sweetbreads, kidneys, brains and other variety meats; also poultry and fish.

HELP WIN THE WAR!
Keep within your share

FOODS REQUIREMENT COMMITTEE
 War Production Board

Claude R. Workard
 Chairman

U.S. Poster No. 12. Additional copies may be obtained upon request from the Division of Public Inquiries, Office of War Relocation, Washington, D.C.

Bogle: There was a store not too far from us – a butter-and-egg, tea-and-coffee store – and when they would get butter in, why, the neighbors would tell you. So I took my four-year-old son there to get a quarter-pound of butter, because he could get a quarter-pound, and I could get a quarter-pound. That’s how things were.

Peterson: There was something called oleo that came out. It was a type of margarine that was white, and they dyed it yellow to make it look more like butter. It didn’t taste like butter, though. It was really gross.

Campbell: The dairy bloc in the legislature wanted to keep oleo out, or do all they could to make it unattractive, so you were not allowed to sell colored oleo margarine – and oleo without color is a sickly white. Each pound of oleo had a little capsule of dye, and what you did was put the oleo in a bowl, break the capsule, and mix it, and it turned yellow. Then it looked like butter.

J. Tilberg: They couldn’t ration something gross, like Brussels sprouts. They had to do sugar.

Bream: I stopped drinking sugar in my coffee so my husband could have sugar in his.

Best: Our neighbor, Mr. Jones – we lived between the Smiths and the Joneses – liked his sugar, but he wouldn’t allow his children to have any of it. Mom used to give him our extra rationing stamps so they would have enough – but when she found that out, they got no more stamps.

Campbell: I’ll tell you where we noticed it most, us kids, was artificial sweeteners in sodas and so on. It just didn’t taste good. But when you look at people out there being blown up and losing limbs and so on, the fact that your Coke didn’t taste right – you didn’t even mention it.

Tome: I had one experience with sugar. I was a grocery bagger, and the lady had bought 10 pounds of Domino sugar – two five-pound bags – and she also had two one-gallon jugs of bleach. I put the two-gallon jugs in a double pager bag, and the 10 pounds of sugar on top of them, then set it down on the floor, because she had a large order and I needed more countertop room. Of course, the floor in the A&P was concrete, and I set it a little too hard and shattered the two gallons of bleach. The sugar settled right down into it. It ruined everything.

Weirich: All meats were rationed. My father went out and bought two cute little pigs. The first thing they did was put their snouts through the windows. The second thing they did was disappear. So my father went looking for them, and you could tell as soon as he caught them – you could hear them squeal for a half-mile. He found both of ‘em, and we eventually raised ‘em to about 400 pounds apiece.

Patricia Poloney: We had meat twice a week, chicken one day, and then beef another day. My mother used to make us have just a little meat, and then save it for another day.

Jane Geiselman: My mother did all of the canning. I guess most of our things came out of the garden. You didn’t have things to freeze; we didn’t have electricity. I think of Mother doing all of this work by candlelight.

Williams: There was a place down the street from where I lived in Boston called the Newbury Street Steak House. It’s on the second floor of a brick building in the Back Bay, and we could always go there and get steaks. It wasn’t until much later that I realized it had to be horse, because steak was simply not available!

Phifer: We went to the zoo during the war. They would ask people if they could bring stuff in for the animals, especially meat stuff. But I think in those days they used a lot of horsemeat. They used the scraps left over from the meat-packing plants and things like that to feed the animals.

Friday: For some reason, lamb was not rationed, so Sunday dinner would be lamb. I didn’t like it.

Dice: It didn’t affect us on the farm. We had our own beef, and we butchered the hogs right there. We had plenty of stuff to eat.

Bogle: I can remember going up to the farmers’ market, and they had, right on the floor, great big packages of potatoes loose. You had to take your bag, and you were allowed maybe a pound, two pounds, and you had to go in one way, pick ‘em up, and go out the other way, so nobody would cheat. Everybody was even.

Campbell: Anybody that had a lot would plant a garden himself, or make it available to other people for a garden. They were right sizable, too. They weren't just little cutesy things that you messed around with at night. My dad had one, and it seemed to me like the thing was a hundred miles long and 50 miles wide when I had to weed it.

Burnite: There were at least four years where I grew all the vegetables that our family used. At one point, I had nearly a whole acre in just potatoes. I kept three families in potatoes for a year.

Holder: My aunt had managed a small oil company for years, and I'm sure had never planted anything in her life. She was not a gardener. But she dug up her back yard.

Bream: We owned a property on East Lincoln Avenue in Gettysburg which we had not developed, and my husband converted that into a big Victory Garden so that everybody in the neighborhood was helping us to eat the beans. Even okra.

Evans: We had so many tomatoes that we didn't have any trouble with the production. But the distribution was a problem, because we didn't have gas to take them around to the people we wanted to give them to. So people used to put big baskets out on the curbs, and the people could take their surplus.

Collitt: You couldn't just buy gas, you'd save for it. If you wanted to drive to Harrisburg or Williamsburg or someplace, you'd plan ahead of time and save the ration stamps. My mother and I drove to Cape May [NJ] one summer, and we saved those things all year. We were scared to death on the way back that we'd have some problem, if the gas was running low.

Hinkeldey: All over the country, the speed limit was reduced to 35 miles an hour. That's as fast as you could go anywhere, even on an open straight road, because you would use up less gas. Some people would speed. I remember one time we were driving along at the speed limit, and this one guy was whizzing by and beeping his horn. We were doing the Morse code for victory – "V" for victory. It would let that driver know that, "Hey, buddy, you're not cooperating."

L.V. Godman: I remember my husband having to get up at six o'clock in the morning to get enough gas to go to work. Then other times, they would double up on transportation – one man would carry some of the men one time in his car, and then another would carry them.

Mabert Sanders: Our friends who lived on the first floor had a little one about the age of ours. They wanted so much to go back to their home in West Virginia to visit their family. My husband said he would take them.

WAR GARDENS

**FOR
VICTORY**



**GROW VITAMINS AT
YOUR KITCHEN DOOR**

We started out on a Friday evening after work. On the way, near Cumberland, MD, my husband saw an arm rise from the side of the road. He said, "I must turn around and see; I think it's some person lying there." So he turned around in the road – there was no traffic – and shined the lights on this girl who had been hurt, thrown from a car. He didn't know what to do. When a Greyhound bus came by, he flagged him. The bus driver said he couldn't put her in his bus, but he could take my husband's passengers if he would take her to the hospital. We rode on the floor of the bus, and my husband put her in the back seat of the car.

You couldn't buy gas after eight o'clock at night. Here it was, getting near 11. So he stopped at this little roadside inn after having the lady taken care of, and begged this person who was running the inn to sell us gas. He said he wouldn't, because the federal officials would close him if he'd sell gas after eight o'clock. About that time, a gentleman who had been a prizefighter – my husband described him as having cauliflower ears – came over and said, "Don't you have any stamps to buy gas?" My husband said, "Yes, but he can't sell me gas." So the man said, "Well, if you want to come with me, I'll get some gas."

The two of them started out about midnight, and they rode. Finally they came to a railroad track. The gentleman said, "This is where you'll have to get out." My husband got out, and the man said, "I'll be back." He was gone for a while. He came back with a tank of gas. When my husband wanted to pay him for his effort, he would only take the money for the gas, nothing else.

We were finally on our way, in the middle of the night.

L.V. Godman: Those were the days, huh.

Royals: Much of what we did during the war, whether adults or children, was psychological. It gave us a sense that we're contributing. We're not defenseless, helpless people. We're being aggressive and assertive.

Hinkeldey: Of course, like everything else, there was a black market in coupons.

Bogle: There was always somebody ready to give you some stamps. Or they knew where they could get you a few steaks, and things like that.

Campbell: There was quite a black market. People don't like to talk about it, but there was. I know of people who supposedly sank tanks in their yards and filled them up with gasoline, and bought black market food. I'd be in people's homes where there were maybe four in a family, and they'd have hundred-pound bags of sugar in the cellar. It wasn't a nice thing, but a lot of people did it.

A hand is shown at the top right, pouring a stream of golden-brown oil from a dark frying pan. The oil falls into a central point where several bombs are arranged in a circle. The impact of the oil creates a bright, fiery explosion in the center, with flames and smoke radiating outwards. The bombs are arranged in a circle around the explosion, with some pointing towards the center and others away. The background is dark, making the explosion and the oil stream stand out.

Save waste fats for explosives

TAKE THEM TO YOUR MEAT DEALER

Muriel Dunlop: My father knew somebody. One time he came home with butter, and he didn't have to use stamps. It was black market, and the man he bought it from had nothing to do with food!

Geyer: I took a job on the Ration Board.¹⁸ That was rather interesting – to see all the people you thought were good, upright citizens trying to get extra stamps.

Phifer: There are some people who wouldn't even think of using the black market, because they were very war-conscious and didn't believe in it. They were honest. But then there's always the other person, who can't get along without oleo.

Robert W. Martin: [My father owned a shoe store in Gettysburg.¹⁹] Shoes were rationed. But the salesman would come in, and maybe he was at another place that didn't need all their shoes, so he would give them to my father. He would make money on them. You had ration stamps: in order to get a pair of shoes, you would give him a stamp. I would say with some of the extra shoes, maybe he would sell them without stamps. It wasn't that big a deal.

Davis: My grandparents were up in Taneytown, and they would always give Mother their shoe stamps because of us being in school.

Phifer: When you bought shoes, you always bought a size larger. That was the poor people's way of not having their kids grow out of shoes too quick.

Elmer Parks: If your shoe soles wore out, they had a thing at the five-and-10 – two rubber shoe soles and a pack of glue. You glued them on the outside of your shoes.

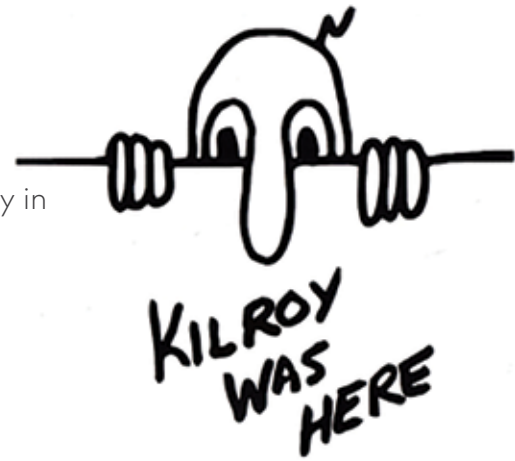
Buehler: You wore anything you could get. I worked at the First National Bank, and had about five blocks to go home. I'd get halfway and have to stop, my feet hurt me so bad.

Lottie Kiessler: Stockings! Oh, you couldn't buy nylons. No, no, no, no, no.

Daniels: I had these nylons. They didn't run like they do today; they were knit much better. Anyway, I wore those nylons through the entire war – one pair. They snagged; they were all covered with little pills. But they remained intact at the end of the war. I was so proud of them.

¹⁸ *Following the issuance of the first War Ration Books in May 1942, local War Price and Rationing Boards were established to oversee and enforce rationing practices within communities.*

¹⁹ *Martin's Shoe Store, on Baltimore Street. It is still there today, as Martin's Family Shoes.*



Gladys Smith: I was lucky with that, because we had a [stockings] factory in Selinsgrove [PA], and every now and then you could go back there and get four or five pair, depending on how many they had. They were seconds, but at least they were nylons.

Lorraine Egan-Elwood: You couldn't buy nylons at all – they all went for the troops for parachutes. So what we did instead was use leg makeup. You painted your legs a nice beige shade, and just hoped that you didn't get caught in a rainstorm, because it would run.

Conroy: We had one gas station in our neighborhood, and in back of that was a stack of old tires that were thrown away. I realized once there were people in there picking through them – these old tires are now becoming good enough to put on their car!

Louise Dee: You couldn't buy a car. You took care of the old car that you had.

Dunlop: Our car was a 1936, and it lasted to the end of the war; I don't know how. I don't remember anybody actually getting rid of their car. I remember them having it fixed all the time.

L. Smith: Everybody was saying "Kilroy was here."²⁰ I came in to Salt Lake City on the train every summer. I was standing in line, waiting to get into the diner on the train, and right where I was standing, someone had written, "Kilroy died here – waiting for chow."

Every time I saw a long line, I'd get in it. I was downtown, and I saw in one of the department stores a big long line, and I thought, "Well, they're signing up for something." I stood in this line a long time, and when I finally got up top, it was a movie star signing autographs. I said, "Here I wasted all my time. I thought it was shoes or something."

Friday: I personally missed whipped cream. I said, "As soon as this war is over, I'm going to go get a sundae with whipped cream on it." And I did do that, with one of my boyfriends. He said, "Why are you so anxious?" And I said, "I've been waiting until the war was over to get this sundae."

²⁰ "Kilroy was here" was graffiti, often accompanied by a cartoon of a bald man peeking over a wall. During World War II it became associated with GIs, who would often leave the words while passing through.

STARVE THE SQUANDER BUG



BUY WAR BONDS

– LIFE IN WARTIME –

Daily life in a time of war presented many challenges, mostly in the form of deprivation – the ordinary comforts and reassurances that were suddenly absent. Some of these absences were fairly common across the population, while others depended on individual or community circumstances. Some were economic, physical, and practical, while others were psychological and emotional. Some civilians, particularly in rural areas, were affected little by the new conditions. But others had to find ways to cope with the encompassing reality of being a nation at war.

Ramer: Nobody felt good about that war.

Corbin: No matter what you were doing in the course of a day, you couldn't get away from the fact that we were at war. It was so much a part of the thinking that you couldn't escape it. If you stayed in the house all day, you couldn't avoid it, because the radio would have it. Or if you went outside, there'd be people talking about it.

Geyer: I just existed day by day, waiting for the war to be over, to get on with the life that we put on hold.

Craver: My husband didn't want to be a soldier, to tell you the truth. I think he was greatly relieved that he could stay at home and keep his eye on his business, because he knew what a job that would have been for me, with two little boys. We had never thought we'd be in war when we planned our family; you never know what's going to happen.

Burnite: You always find that people will turn more to the church in wartime, because they have a feeling that they have to grasp onto something. They have to have something solid that they can feel, and they turn to religion as the basic source of that strength. That's unfortunate, because then they fall away again.

Dice: When we were married in 1938, we had to sell hogs for five and six cents a pound. That was live-weight hogs; live-weight beef cattle was 11 and 12 cents. After the war started in the early Forties, these prices just started to go right up. And so we had a better income!

Duncan: World War II ended the Depression. During the war, everybody had a job. Everybody had money.

Charles Gardner: From high school I went immediately [to work for] Glen L. Martin, which is Martin Marietta now, in Middle River, MD. I went into the tool crib department, issuing tools for workers to work on planes. Let me tell you, I was a rich man. I was 18 years old, making a dollar an hour, and I always had a hundred bucks in my pocket. I bought myself a '32 Chevrolet for 75 bucks. I was living like a king.

Milton Franklin: Many civilians were working in factories and were very happy. They didn't give a damn about anything but money, and of course the munitions makers were very happy. The bottom line was profit. Never mind how many lives we sacrificed. They were expendable.

Davis: We were pretty carefree teenagers, in spite of the war.

Baird: I was too busy sitting up on the apple tree reading a novel. Life was easy. I was just a kid having a good time.

Copenhaver: You listened to the radio every night. Of course you'd get the hype of marching toward Paris. Newspapers were full of information, headlines every day, and so you watched that. We would talk about it at school. There was no television, so that was the way we kept up.

Campbell: During the war, we used to go out on the battlefield and have our wars, too. There was a furniture factory in town that had a steam whistle. 5:30, the whistle blew, signifying the end of the shift. I would say that 75 percent of the kids in town were told to come home for dinner when the whistle blew; sometimes you could hear it out on the battlefield. The whistle blew, and suddenly the war was over.

Dick Herman: Before the war, I remember buying gasoline for 18 cents a gallon. Same with cigarettes – 18 or 20 cents a pack. I remember at grocery stores back in New Oxford, we used to sell cigarettes to those too young to smoke, and they'd open a pack and sell one cigarette for two cents. So you'd be making 20 cents for the pack.

Carol Iwancio: You did without a lot of things. But you didn't growl about it, because you knew it was for a good cause.

In Gettysburg and greater Adams County, the new conditions were felt in a variety of ways. As the county seat, Gettysburg was the center of civil defense measures, salvage efforts, and other elements of wartime readiness and sacrifice. Gettysburg College, which like its peers faced a substantial drop in enrollment due to enlistments and the draft, hosted several military training units on its campus between March 1943 and March 1945, housing recruits in dormitories, providing academic instruction, and furnishing athletic fields and a specially constructed obstacle course for drilling purposes.



*These and preceding pages:
Wartime at Gettysburg College
included war news and training
of army recruits.*



Anne Faber: Gettysburg was a nice little town to be in during a situation like that. It wasn't like the city, where everything was scarce – fighting and grabbing for what little was there.

Bream: My experience was that, in a small community like this, we were not feeling the war too severely – except if a son was in the service, or a husband, and was killed or wounded. I don't think we felt some of the social problems that other communities might have had, because we're a little country town.

Fidler: Of course, a big thing is tourism in Gettysburg, and that was hurt. Gasoline rationing. Oh, heavens – the battlefield guides had to go to work!

Campbell: You'd see convoys coming through town; they'd drop off road guards at each intersection. Most of the convoys came from the south, out here to Lincoln Avenue, and then turned right on Lincoln – or east, going on toward Harrisburg. Most of them, I think, were probably going to points of embarkation – New York and



Philadelphia – coming up out of the training camps of the South. You’d see a deuce-and-a-half, a two-and-a-half-ton truck, with benches in the back just crammed with people. You knew they were infantry rifle replacements, headed overseas.

Koons: [Gettysburg College president Henry W.A.] Hanson presumably had some connections in Washington, and he said to the young men, “Now, don’t be worried – you’re frozen. You won’t be called up.”

Arthur L. Ruths: Dr. Hanson got the promise that anyone who signed up for the reserves would be able to finish their college work. The fellows, by droves, went over to the gym [to sign up].

Koons: But he was wrong: a number of the men were drafted.

Ruths: Virtually *all* these fellows were called up to active duty. It took hundreds of men, and decimated the activities of the College.

Campbell: Gettysburg had an ASTP unit – the Army Specialized Training Program. Where the Bream Fieldhouse Gym is now, and the infirmary, there was an obstacle course. (See image below)

Bream: President Hanson said to my husband [head football coach Hen Bream], “I need you to build an obstacle course.” In fact, he conducted their physical training program the whole time the cadets were here.

Campbell: They had these 40-inch vaults, and they had the overhead ladders; you crawled under some chicken wire in another spot. We were 11 or 12 years old, and we timed each other to see who could make the best time.



Collitt: You felt as though you were in a strange place, because the classes were small and seemed dark. On the campus, no men were around. So we were glad that the College had this opportunity to contract with the government, otherwise they might have gone under.

Hinkeldey: The cadets were not allowed to roam around like college students normally did. They would march, and they sang all kinds of rousing songs as they marched.

Ruths: In one way, us fellows didn't like that, because they ate up the girls. But the girls loved it.

Hinkeldey: I lived in the attic of Weidensall Hall, which was then called the SCA [Student Christian Association] building. I lived up in the attic with four or five other guys, and we were the janitors of the building. We took care of everything. In the evening, when the military men were on leave, they had a couple of hours free, and they would come there – it was like their USO, with all the dancing – to let off some steam. Different groups from town would come and make refreshments for the guys.

Craver: The College didn't want women at all. But of course, once the war got underway, they needed women badly, so they reversed their decision. There were so many men going into the service that their enrollment was falling.

Hinkeldey: It was a matter of financial survival to have a student body and to hold classes. They took all the women that would apply, so during the war years there was a ratio of about four women for every man on campus. The men that were on campus were classified as 4-F, and were mainly pre-ministerial students like myself. In total, there were probably no more than 400 civilian students.

Guss: Actually, it was the women that kept the College alive.

Haas: They brought in a bunch of navy [cadets] and took over Huber Hall. The girls then were made to eat in the fraternity houses.

Mara: At first, they hired us to feed the men. That was something! I would get up at five in the morning to be over at Huber Hall to feed these cadets. We'd run across the railroad tracks in the bitter weather. Finally, I got sick of it and had to quit.

Collitt: Every morning they were singing their air force songs: *"I've got sixpence, jolly-jolly sixpence, I've got sixpence to take home to my wife."*

Mara: A majority of them left seven months into the semester of the school year. They left real early one cold morning, at 5:30, up here at the little railroad station. The whole college turned out to send them off.

Koons: The SCA sponsored a farewell breakfast for the students going off to war – five o'clock, or some weird hour of the morning. One of our professors, who seemed very forbidding in a way – he was a very demanding and somewhat aloof person – was there to help serve these students. We had this big breakfast and send-off, and then we went up from Weidensall Hall to where the railroad station is, and they got on the train to go wherever they were going. Off to war.

Collitt: It was so dark. And they got on this train. You were hardly aware there was a train in Gettysburg. I mean, you knew that Lincoln came to Gettysburg on the train; you knew the history of it. But that morning, it was very real. You knew that some of the ones that we waved goodbye to that morning would not be back.

Koons: At some point, the fireman opened the firebox – I guess to throw coal in – and the coal fire cast a red light over the gloom of smoke and steam going out of the train. It struck me, symbolically, as blood across the sky. And that turned out to be true, you know: a number of our classmates were killed.

Robert Fortenbaugh: The town lost a lot of men. No different from any other town.

Locomotive 158 at the Western Maryland Railroad station, Carlisle Street.



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– ON AMERICAN SOIL –

Along with scrap drives, USO dances, bond and stamp buying, and rationing of food and goods, civil defense was a way in which many Americans invested in the war. Blackouts and plane-spotting were central to this effort.

Chase: There was a blackout during the war. You had to have dark curtains on your windows. The streetlights were dimmed. Theater marquees were not on. We were 30 miles from the coastline [in Ossining, NY]; there were practices, and you had to be prepared for bombings. There was that threat over your head.

C. Moore: [In Baltimore] I was assigned the task of turning out the lamppost light. In those days, the lamppost was turned on every night; it was gas, not electric. At 8:30 or 9:30 in the evening, the alarm would go off. I would sit in the front room, waiting. The alarm would go off, and I was out of that room, shimmying up the lamppost, turning it off, and coming back. My grandmother timed it – it was almost Olympic in timing.

Bogle: My husband was working nights, and I had these two small children. It was really eerie. You'd look out and everything is black – no street lights, and nobody moving. Except you'd hear the trucks moving: these big trucks full of troops.

Johnson: We were not allowed to use any lights at night unless we had blackout curtains, which we put over our windows. They were fearful of air raids from the Germans. You never could convince me that they would waste bombs on apple orchards – but we all had to do it.

Davis: My mother said to Dad, "Do you really think all this is necessary?" and he said, "We're not that far from Washington. If they get bombed, we could be in their path." That really frightened me. But I didn't want my parents to know I was frightened, because I had this new baby sister and all.

Conroy: I remember a couple of practice drills where these guys were out on the street, looking at the houses, trying to see if there was any light leaking out of them.

Bogle: They would have these ladies, mostly – because the men were at war – walk around to see that every house was darkened. They’d blow whistles, and you couldn’t go out on the street.

Dunlop: We would just sit in the dark and listen to the radio.

Buehler: I was warden for our district. We’d get notice that the warning was going to be sounded, and we’d get from our places of business to our homes. Our house had a widow’s walk, a parapet, on top, and I could go up there and see into the rooms that were lit up. They were told they had to correct that.

Friday: They would just knock on your door and tell you to “outten” the lights.

Schultz: They turned the Peace Light off completely, so there would be no light up there.

Guss: Well, they say that you can see a man lighting a cigarette from the air.

Bogle: People were pretty loyal. They didn’t want to help the enemy in any way.

Murphy: I remember thinking at the time, “This is kind of ridiculous.” It’s a beautiful moonlit night, and the whole town is standing against the snow. You can see everything. What difference does it make if we have lights on or not?

Scharf: Our hotel was the central location of the blackout apparatus.²¹ It was all done through our telephone system. I don’t remember much about the drills, but I know that at nighttime, everybody had to be indoors, and my husband was very careful – no light whatsoever was showing through. What we did was have these black curtains on all the windows. We bought yards and yards. We just hung them – just nailed them up.

Koons: I went to summer school at Union Theological Seminary in New York City between my junior and senior year. I was with some friends; we were down on Times Square, having coffee and doughnuts or whatever it was, and there’s a blackout in New York City – on the Great White Way!²² That’s an eerie experience. We went out on the street to look, and against the moonlight or whatever natural light there was, we saw these skyscrapers. That’s an unforgettable experience, to see New York City in total, total darkness.

²¹ *The Hotel Gettysburg, owned by Henry Scharf, was located in the town’s central square.*

²² *“The Great White Way”: the popular nickname for Manhattan’s brightly-lit Theater District.*

Phifer: All the street lights went out, and all the cars had to pull over and put their lights out. If there was no moon, the whole city of Philadelphia was pitch-black. Even that, just in itself, was scary.

Cedric Tilberg: I lived on the third floor of a house in Washington, DC, and the warnings came that they were going to have a blackout. I was up on the third floor and I could see over roofs a long ways, and to see all of northeast Washington absolutely black – that was a profound experience, really bringing the thing home. We knew very well that Washington could be a prime bomb target.

Scharf: A lot of times, apparently, they would hear planes coming toward Gettysburg. That’s when they’d sound the alarm.

Campbell: When the air-raid siren went off, immediately you had two choices: you could shut off all your lights in the house, if you were at home; or you could go to a room that you had prepared especially for that.

Hauser: I hated that so much – in the middle of the night, to be alone.

David Dawson: My dad was an air-raid marshal. When the alarms went off, especially at night, he would go around and check on everything, make sure the all the lights were out, that people had their lights covered up, and that street lights were barely visible. There was considered to be a big danger from incendiary devices and bombs. So the air-raid marshal had to carry a bucket with him, a bucket of sand when he was going around, to put out fires. When the alarm went off, you never knew whether it was going to be real or not, so it was pretty scary from time to time.

Campbell: I was the air-raid warden for my classroom. I forget which grade I was in, but I was very proud of myself to be contributing to the war effort in such a magnificent capacity.

Collitt: I was living in Huber Hall on the top floor, and my sister was over in Stevens [Hall]. So I moved with her and her roommate into the [Phi Gamma Delta house] – the three of us in a room for two, which wasn’t all that big to begin with.

I was in charge of the air-raid warning on our floor, and there was a blackout on campus. They sounded the sirens, and we would go round, get everybody, and go down to the lobby. So I jumped out of bed, not realizing that my closet door was open, and whacked my head. About a half an hour later, when the lights came on, I had a huge black eye.

Cox: We didn’t have an actual air raid; we had air-raid practices. This practice siren is what we would have heard if there was an actual air raid. I think it was up in the firehouse, if I remember correctly; in fact, I think it could have been the fire whistle blowing a certain way.

Murphy: We found it kind of exciting as kids. You'd have air raids at school, where you had to go under your desk and things like that. It was a break from the monotony.

Riley: You had airplane spotters out on top of the hill. You had a spotter on top of the bank.

Ruth Jewell: I was an airplane spotter. I had to go up into the mountains every other day and sit there for four hours looking for a plane.

Helen Hauser: They built little houses – I guess they were more like stepladders up high – and my husband would go there at night to watch for the planes.

Campbell: Up where the First National Bank was, up on the roof was a spotting station. There was a telephone up there, and you would report aircraft – flight, time, direction. As I remember, that post was manned 24 hours a day.

They used to tell us that we were in a very sensitive area, because of all the defense contractors in York. They even said they might want to bomb the battlefield, for the psychological value.

The First National Bank, Gettysburg.



Pat Moore: I was old enough to become an airplane spotter; I was given a few training sessions. A building had been built behind my neighbor's house, and there I'd sit, inside this little room, with a heater and a telephone. When I heard an airplane, I'd go outside, try to identify it, and see which way it was headed – or coming from. Then I'd telephone a number and report that. I remember feeling very proud about being able to do this.

Pritchard: At the end of High Street [in Nazareth, PA], there's a big monument dedicated to the Indians – I always thought there were Indians buried there, and there are some – and near that, there's this big tower. Metal, concrete, very cold. During the war, they decided that was a good place to spot aircraft. So they enclosed it with plywood, and they had teams from Nazareth, about 56 on a team, and we were assigned to go up there and spot aircrafts.

I went with my father, and we had shifts for a couple of hours. We got a pin and a certificate. If we spotted an aircraft, we would have to call Allentown Airport and give the codename K-BACH-LI-MA-44-RED, and they knew where you were calling from. They wanted to know about the aircraft. We're close to Braden Airport around here, and they were going in and out all the time, so a lot of those were nothing that they had to worry about. But we still had to turn them in.

It was nice. It was eerie at night.

C. Tilberg: At Gettysburg Seminary, we volunteered to search for bombers. I know in the middle of the night, I spent quite a few times on top of the First National Bank building, up there in the darkness and quiet, listening for airplanes.

It was thought that Gettysburg was a possibility, if planes got steered away from Harrisburg and York and other places like that; also, the fact is that the battlefield is a major government spot. Of course, that never happened. But it was a strange experience, because we could hear so well what happened on the highways, and trucks coming in. It sounded like a bomber coming in over the trucks.

Koons: In New York, we went to an outdoor concert in a park. During the concert, you'd see these searchlights, searching the sky to identify any planes that were flying over. Sometimes I think that, symbolically, it was like a metronome, or a conductor's wand going back and forth. While this music is being played, the sky is being searched for alien planes.

Campbell: The National Guard was called to active duty. That left a void in the community for emergency personnel, as far as putting down riots, helping in disasters, and so on. They formed a unit of, for lack of a better word, militia men, who were people too old or too infirm or physically unqualified for the army. I don't think they were ever used, but had there been a riot or a big



disaster, they would have been called out to assist the police in maintaining order. They marched in parades, but that was about all.

Phifer: I took up a firearms class. We got to be quite the sharpshooters: we could really hit the target. We would be issued guns, we would have places to patrol, and things like that.

We found out later that there was a U-boat off the coast of New Jersey, which could have easily lobbed a couple of bombs. There was always the possibility that something like that might happen. Sometimes I think we wished it would, because we'd done all these classes and everything. We were glad we didn't, because we never wanted to see anybody hurt. But this was a group of young girls – 23, 24 – and we were just looking for a little excitement.

Conroy: They demonstrated what to do with incendiaries, and they had a simulated incendiary in a glass capsule. They threw it out into the middle of the street, and of course it burst into flames, and the air raid wardens went in with their buckets and shovels of sand to put it out. Then they did a second one, in case you didn't understand.

Campbell: We had buckets of sand in the house in case incendiary bombs hit. We were supposed to put the sand on the bomb. But I never, even as a kid, put much faith in that, because you'd see on the newsreels thousands and thousands of these incendiary bombs falling out of airplanes. And you're sitting there with an eight-quart bucket of sand and a little shovel.

Prior to 9/11, Pearl Harbor was the deadliest attack on American soil. Throughout the war, the fear of another domestic attack hung over the home front – despite the main theaters of war being many thousands of miles away. Propaganda signage and government appeals kept civilians aware of the danger of loose talk and saboteurs. With concrete information in short supply, rumors of infiltration by enemy spies abounded.

Chase: There was a thread of fear that you lived with. We didn't know it, but there were ships being bombed and sunk off the American coast. Friends of ours lived in Providence, RI, and they could see these explosions.

Bogle: They sighted submarines off the coast of Atlantic City. It was pretty scary. We were always nervous.

Hull: You always felt, being so close to Washington, DC, that anything might happen.

Iwancio: We had a lot of canneries in Baltimore, and the airplane industry and steel mills and automakers had things going on. We had the naval base there, and Fort McHenry, and the naval base down in Annapolis. A lot of shipping came in and out. They say a lot of places had spies. I was a switchboard operator, and we were very careful. We were not allowed to talk about anything on our switchboard – you had supervisors behind you, walking up and down. You didn't give anything on the phone.

Koons: In Harrisburg, my hometown, there were fears of sabotage of the bridges across the Susquehanna River. The whole network of rail connections between the east and the west, in the northern part of the United States, impinged a good bit on what happened between New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and on out to Chicago over the Susquehanna.

Murphy: Eastman Kodak, Bausch and Lomb, Graflex – all the big photo industry that was in Rochester was war-related. You could see the town becoming very security-conscious; there was this paranoia. Everybody was on alert. Watching.



**If you tell where
he's going . . .
He may never
get there!**

Scharf: We would be very suspicious about people coming to the hotel. A lot of them, they weren't arrested, but they were watched very carefully.

Guss: I think the majority of Americans felt pretty secure. We didn't think anyone would make it across the Atlantic or across the Pacific.

Dunkelberger: I don't think people had a fear that they would come here. We feared for all the men who had to go to Germany, and for all their comforts and discomforts.

Friday: I never felt concern for my safety, never at all. My brothers were all too young to fight in the war, so I didn't think about that. But I think we all had these rose-colored glasses on about the war. We just thought, "There's no way for this to come to our country."

L. Smith: We got a slip of paper from the principal one day, and it said that these bombs had landed in Oregon. But we were not to mention it to the newspaper. We were to tell our students to be careful, if they were out looking around, to find anything that looked like a bomb, or a balloon, or something like that, to be very cautious about that. But we were not to tell the papers or anything.²³

Hauser: I guess at that time, everybody was more or less scared of everything. You pulled your blinds down in the house, and everything was dark.

Campbell: I had the child's-eye view of war – nobody ever suffers, and I never got hurt.

Faber: We did have a German prisoner camp here, at the old CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] site outside of town, near the battlefield area. That was a little scary.

Marian Sloat: We had a prison camp out on Confederate Avenue in Gettysburg; there was one in Chambersburg, at the Michaux State Forest, and there was one up above Ortanna. As time went on, there would be one or two guards for 100 prisoners. At this one prison camp, this group of prisoners cut wood for a company in West Virginia. Some of them worked in the canning factory in Ortanna.

Ramer: We had one camp on Emmitsburg Road; that was the smaller one. The bigger one was in Adams County, up in Pine Grove. Pine Grove is a beautiful place, and they had it nice, too – nice buildings. No wonder the Germans didn't want to go home.

²³ On September 9, 1942, a single-engine Yokosuki E-14-Y aircraft, launched from an I-25 submarine, dropped two incendiary bombs in the coastal forests near Brookings, OR. The trees failed to catch fire, due to autumn dampness. A follow-up attempt later in September likewise failed. The pilot, Nobuo Fujita, traveled to Brookings years after the war and, in a gesture of atonement, presented the town with a samurai sword that had been in his family for generations.

Martin: The place I worked at, out there at Central Chemical, they came out there and helped. They helped on farms and stuff. You got to know them, just like you worked at a prison where you got to know the inmates. They didn't know much English, but they would say – I don't know if they were pulling your leg or not – that the brown-eyed, dark-haired Germans didn't get along with the blond-haired, blue-eyed Germans.

Faber: Those prisoners were taken different places to work, like the candy factory, and they were closely guarded, of course, by military personnel. We never saw them; they never went to town. So there was a certain fear there. When I went to college, there were German prisoners hiding out in catacombs in one of the buildings – I think that was the rumor.

Geiselman: We were out to kill anybody that came to our door. If anyone comes to the door and they speak German, just shoot them. [Laughs]

Johnson: Later in the war, we had a prisoner of war camp up beyond Fairfield somewhere. The churches, most of them, wanted to do something in sort of a Christian way for these men. My church gave dances in the Sunday school room for these German prisoners, gave them some food, coffee or cake or whatever. We would be recruited to go up and entertain these people a bit. Which was a very nice feeling, because all the prisoners were not necessarily fighting us personally.

*German POW camp in Pine Grove Furnace,
north of Gettysburg.*



Murphy: In Rochester, the one camp that I was familiar with was at a reservoir near me. We could walk to it as kids. These low structures, barbed wire all around it. They were free to walk around the yard and stuff. There was a song at the time; we would go up to the fence and sing it to the German prisoners: "Pfft, right in der Fuehrer's face." They'd laugh.

Sloat: One of the most interesting things was, they'd want to fraternize with the girls – and some of the girls would get pretty involved with them.

Johnson: One time, I was up there as a kind of hostess, and there was a German man that did the most wonderful waltzing. I was so glad when he asked me to waltz because, oh, he could do it so beautifully. And he could speak a little English, so we could converse a little bit.

Mara: They would ask some college girls to come and be a dancing partner or something for some of the prisoners. I went one time and met a man from Germany. He was a good deal older; he must have been around 40. He had made stained-glass windows in the cathedrals in Germany.

Staff and prisoners in mess hall, Pine Grove Furnace POW camp.



– WOMEN WITHOUT MEN –

Much has been written and recalled about the loneliness of men on the war fronts – the separation of husbands from wives and children, the strains on marriages due to long absences. But the emotional impact on the other side was just as great, and in some ways worse. Girlfriends and wives had to live with not knowing where their men were located, or if they were safe. To support themselves, they often had to get jobs for the first time. They raised children alone, and had only themselves and perhaps a family or community support system to rely on for the resolution of everyday crises. If this fostered a newfound self-reliance in many women, it was also the source of much physical and emotional stress.

A photograph of a piece of aged, yellowed paper with handwritten text in cursive. The text reads: "I can hardly wait to see you. Yum-Yum-Yum." The paper is slightly wrinkled and has a warm, brownish tint.

Excerpts from letters written between January and December 1944 by Helen Haldeman to her husband, Clarence.

Geyer: All the newspapers and magazines wrote articles urging us to write to our servicemen overseas. It made me furious, because in the meantime, I was at home, having a baby alone. I had the feeling the servicemen overseas should be writing to the poor gals who were holding up the home front.

Riley: It was so difficult for the women. That was the worst thing. It was so difficult for the women to have children and not hear from the men for a couple of months at a time, not know where they were.

Thomas: My husband said, "You know, I might not come back." That just made me want a baby more. It really did. That's the way I felt about it, and it seemed to me that that was the way most of the women felt about it. Quick marriages. And a lot of babies the first year.



Clarence made this recording for Helen in Miami Beach in January 1944, just before shipping out.

Wow, it's just as hard for me as it is for you.

Crane: It was difficult. I had the full responsibility of the children.

Geyer: I didn't want the baby at that point; I wanted my husband home. I had medical problems, and I was not well. And do you know where he was? He sent me a big, fat letter, and I opened it up, and it was full of playbills from theaters in London.

I had never held a baby in my life. When he cried . . .

One night I remember distinctly. The window was open, it was summertime, and I thought, if I threw him out the window, how far would he go? I can still remember thinking that.

Please don't ever let me down in any way, shape, or form because I think I'd just completely give up myself if you did. You know I'm counting on you completely and if anything ever happened between us I wouldn't give a h— about anything.

L.V. Godman: \$90 a month is all we got, and I had one child. And that wasn't much, let me tell you, even in those days. I don't know what a single mother got.

Dunkelberger: Baby things were scarce. You didn't go in and buy a dozen diapers – you got three or four.

Geyer: You've heard the stories of the "Dear John" letters. I just felt sorry for the wives, because they were so weak that they couldn't put up with it. It was not easy. But damn it, we had no choice. We never went to sleep at night without wondering whether our husbands would be alive the next day.



I still love you even though everything is a mess. And I mean mess.

Crane: I'm glad we did it. But I wouldn't want to do it again.

Geyer: If you're a strong enough person, you can do it yourself. I think the generation today is mollycoddled. They feel they need support groups to get them through this or that. If we were strong, good.

We wept. We wept a lot.



P.S. Do you still love me?

– THE MEDIA –

Censorship of news was common in World War II; civilians seldom got a full picture of what was happening on the battlefronts at any given time. To the extent they could follow ongoing developments, it was through radio, newspapers, newsreels, and Hollywood movies. Those on the home front recall how vital these sources were to a sense of awareness, involvement, unity – and, particularly in the case of movies, simple entertainment.

Platt: Music was an important part of keeping up morale. “White Cliffs of Dover” and “There Will Always Be an England” are two songs that I remember.²⁴ They were very poignant; they talked about a country that had gone through a lot more hell than this country’s ever gone through.

Haas: People went to the movies a lot. It was a good way to leave your cares at home, and you did keep up with what was going on. And misery loves company.

Pritchard: Once in a while, the movie theater would have a tin-can matinee. If your parents could afford it, you could bring a tin can of food, go to the Broad Street Theater in Nazareth after school, and see cartoon after cartoon. That’s all there was.

B. McDowell: When the movie started, about the first thing you would have would be a newsreel, and it would give the news of the week. Then they would have coming attractions, showing you what movie was going to come next.

I don’t ever remember them having popcorn. But one thing they did have was, one night a week it would be ladies’ night, and on that night, you would go and get some kind of dish. Whether you wanted to go to the movies or not, you went to get your dish. Maybe it would be a plate; maybe it would be a saucer. All during the movie, you’d be sitting there, somebody would drop their plate, and you’d hear the thing break. It was really funny.

Staub: A hypnotist came to town, for a diversion – we had little diversions every once in a while – and they asked anyone up who had any particular problems they wanted to solve. Some woman had lost

²⁴ *These songs, both popularized by singer Vera Lynn, were crucial to wartime morale in England. “There’ll Always Be an England” was released in September 1939, soon after the start of the war; “White Cliffs of Dover” appeared in 1942 (and was unrelated to the 1944 film of the same name).*

her ration books; couldn't find them anywhere. So they hypnotized her. She got up, went to the wall, and started climbing up. The hypnotist asked her, "What are you doing?" She said, "They're up there, at the top of the cupboard."

So they drove her home, got a chair, stood up, and there they were on the high cupboard in the corner. She'd laid them up there and forgot about them. Now, who knows whether it was set up or not? It impressed everybody at the time.

Haas: We always took a lot of handkerchiefs to the movies. My friend and I would just sit there and cry, and then we would feel better, I guess. I don't know; they were a relief in a way. I mean, the average person wouldn't sit around and cry because somebody they love is in an impossible situation. If you sat at home and cried, you would make other people miserable. If you go to the movies, you could cry like crazy, and it was all right.



Franklin D. Roosevelt and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in Sicily, December 8, 1943.

Daniels: The content of radio was more like we get on television – a lot of dramatic shows and news information. It seemed to be doing some good; it was very effective.

Bogle: Radio was very important.

Iwancio: It was our news, our entertainment. It was everything.

Geyer: We would gather around the radio. We had a big map on the kitchen wall of Europe, so that when we heard the news, we could immediately spot where it was going.

Arthur Brown: I watched my cousin's progress across France and Belgium. I had large maps in my bedroom, with little pins in 'em, and every day I'd move the pins according to the radio or the newspaper.

Maher: People who ordinarily did not follow the news much started reading newspapers avidly. Their first intention was to see how the war was going. You sat glued to the radio, and waited for the papers.

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GOD IS MY CO-PILOT

by COL. ROBERT LEE SCOTT, JR.

STARRING

DENNIS MORGAN · CLARK · MASSEY · HALE

ANDREA KING · JOHN RIDGELY
Screen Play by Peter Miller and Allan Finkel
Directed by ROBERT FLOREY
Music by Frank Maxwell
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Royals: You were instructed by your history teacher to read the Sunday paper, and then come in on Monday and discuss the topics. One day I didn't read the paper, and the teacher called upon me to talk about Guadalcanal.²⁵ My response was a great one. I said, "Guadalcanal is just like the Panama Canal: ships pass through it." Needless to say, I did not do well that day.

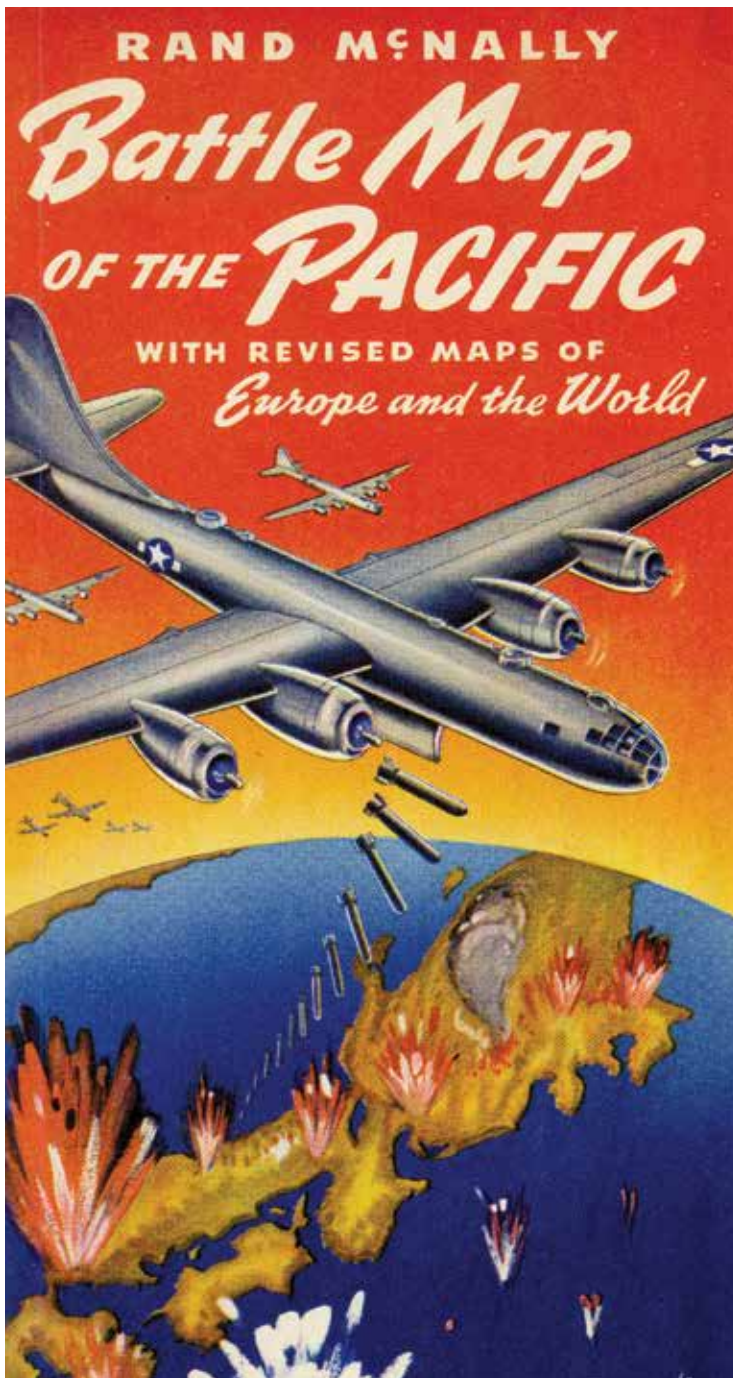
Burnite: The only news we got was that which was approved by the government. It was the accepted thing, because we didn't know that there was anything else. We knew that at the beginning we were having a great deal of trouble – we were losing battles. We knew that Midway was the turning point, but we didn't know specifics.

Staub: Yes, there was some censorship. But it never lasted too long. Thank God for a free press!

²⁵ The Pacific island of Guadalcanal was the site of a major Allied offensive against Japan between August 7, 1942, and February 9, 1943.



Gen. Eisenhower with French Army officers at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, following the liberation of Paris in August 1944.



Commercially marketed battle maps kept many civilians apprised of war developments.

Baskerville: We were told that in fighting, especially in the South Pacific, American casualties were heavy. But we were never given numbers.

Markle: When Mussolini was finally caught and executed – that was a great day. Everyone thought it was wonderful. Nobody was sorry for the guy. It was wonderful that it happened.²⁶

Phifer: The depressed times came when we heard of a battle or something, and a lot of boys were killed. If things weren't going well, there was a lot of crying.

Murphy: There were two shocks in my life. One was Pearl Harbor, and the second was the Battle of the Bulge.²⁷ We really were scared about that; we didn't know what it meant. It seemed like all the news we were getting was saying, "We're winning, we're winning, we're winning." All of a sudden, out of the blue comes this news that the Germans are on a major offensive – and we're losing.

It was like, "Haven't they been telling us the truth? What's going on here?" The Battle of the Bulge was a real wake-up for a kid.

²⁶ Mussolini was executed outside of Milan on April 28, 1945, by anti-Fascist partisans. His corpse, along with those of his mistress and members of his political entourage, was hung upside down in Milan's Piazzale Loreto.

²⁷ Waged between December 16, 1944, and January 25, 1945, the Battle of the Bulge was the last great German offensive of the war, with Panzer tank divisions attempting a massive push across the snowy Ardennes Forest to overrun the Belgian port of Antwerp. Despite some discord and miscommunication between its commanders, the Allied forces were able, just barely, to repel the offensive.

– LOSSES –

Pearl Harbor had been a shock to the American system, both in terms of the nation's vulnerability to attack and the number of servicemen killed and wounded. Numbers mounted as the United States fully engaged in a true world war. The impact lay less in the cumulative numbers of American war dead than in what families, loved ones, and communities faced as the cost of the war came home.

Baird: There was a sign all over the place that said, "We'd rather be with them than waiting." So we wrote a song:

*We'd rather be with them than waiting,
we'd rather be there by their side.
We'd rather be plugging than sitting home hugging
and being some draft dodger's bride.
We'd rather be crossin' the Seine
than to sit home waiting without any dating.
You see, that's where we'd rather be!*

Vilma McGill: The war didn't mean a whole lot until my brothers had to go. That's when it really hit me that they might not be returning.

Maher: Both my brothers went in. I don't believe one of them even got a leave to come home. You worried constantly. That's why I think everyone was involved in the war effort. I don't remember one family that didn't have somebody in the war – a brother, a relative, somebody.

G. Smith: I was in the pinochle club. You would discuss, "Why isn't he in the service, and why is he deferred? What's wrong with him? He has no children," things like that. I guess it's because *our* men had to go. "I lost my husband. Why did I have to lose him? Why me and not you?"

Geyer: I didn't give a damn about winning the war or losing the war. I was more concerned about losing my husband.

Mara: My husband was in the Battle of the Bulge. For a long time, we had no idea. We didn't hear, didn't hear, and didn't hear. We didn't know for a long time whether anyone was dead or alive. Boy, that

was a terrible worry! It really was. A lot of the girls, many of us, were either engaged or pinned or dating somebody special, and boy, that was really sad.

Elaine Moran: When I'd come home, Mom and Dad would tell me about certain classmates who were missing in action or were killed. I lost a cousin of mine. He was killed by a sniper in Europe.

Gotwalt: My brother was killed on the island of Luzon. A hand grenade exploded.



L.V. Godman: A lieutenant came to the door and told us that my brother Russell had died. He had his watch, and that's how I knew. That was not long after he'd been in there: he left the first day of January 1945, I think, and died February 26. It was a sniper. They went into this German town, and he got it right away. But that's the way it is. Can't do much about that.

Corbin: I was dating a girl in high school. I believe I was at her place when they got the news that her brother was shot down in the Pacific.

Alexine Hikes: One of my classmates was on the first submarine that disappeared. I don't think they ever did find out what happened to it.

Davis: In our class at Gettysburg High, the one boy who was killed was – we used to call them colored – a black boy, Sterrett Dorsey. We have an alumni park where we pay for the bricks, and Ruthe Fortenbaugh put his brick in for him. (See inset)

Leer: One of the best men I knew on campus was active in the Student Christian Association and was a second lieutenant. He was killed in Normandy. We had several others who were killed.

Chase: It was just an anxious feeling that you had because – well, the news would come that another kid was killed. Bobby Wright. Bobby Palmer. Jackie Murray. The Baden boy. The Patterson kid. Mary Feeney. “What was that kid’s name who got crushed? He was in our choir.”

Conroy: You heard of a friend or two, or a neighbor who had been killed. But I was a callous kid – if you didn’t see your parents crying, you didn’t care.

Dunlop: When someone was killed, you know how you found out about it? Western Union. They would come to your house with a piece of paper saying that so-and-so died. If you saw the Western Union car, you didn’t want it to go near your house.



Sterrett A. Dorsey, born March 31, 1922, left Gettysburg High School to enlist in the naval reserves on June 13, 1943. He served on the U.S.S. *Samaritan*, a hospital ship, and the U.S.S. *Bridge*, a supply ship, and died aboard the *Bridge* on December 3, 1945.

Reports of Dorsey’s death are contradictory, newspapers blaming it

on “injuries received when the U.S.S. *Bridge*...struck a mine in the Pacific.” Yet the *Bridge* entry in the official *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships* maintains that, though the ship was badly damaged by a mine while operating near Korea on November 1, 1945, the crew suffered no casualties. No mention is made of any other mishap prior to the ship’s decommissioning on June 27, 1946, at Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan.

Posthumously awarded a Victory Medal, Dorsey was first buried in the U.S. Cemetery at Sasebo; his remains were later exhumed for removal to Gettysburg National Cemetery, where they were reinterred on January 7, 1949.



This flag, with three blue stars indicating three sons in service, was hung by the Berger family of Gettysburg.

DeLuca: If you ever saw that Western Union guy walking in the neighborhood, everyone knew what was going on.

B. McDowell: We usually heard by mouth. People would tell you, because Burlington's a small town, and you would learn that way. People more or less would respect you; they didn't put flowers someplace in memory of them, they kind of left the parents alone. But everyone knew they were grieving, and would do their best to help them if they could.

Corbin: In Highspire [PA], there was a big board, and soon as you got in the service, your name was up there. If you were lost in service, or missing, or if you were killed, there would be a special plaque with your name on it. It was a pride in the community, contributing to the war effort in the form of our own men going to the service, and the stark reality that some of them were never going to come back.

Chase: Every family that had a kid in the service had a flag in the window with a star – a blue star. If the person was killed, it became a gold star.

Jones: My mother had a flag hanging out the third-story window with five stars on it, because she had five sons in the service.

Geiselman: Going by to school, I'd say, "There's a new flag in the window." You'd see that flag, and that meant he'd been killed. And you just ached for that family.

Burnite: One of my very best friends was a flight engineer on a B-17, and he was killed. I had quite a few friends that were in the service, and quite a few who were killed. It was a rough time, really. But I think a pastor has to learn to adjust himself, and not let personal tragedy enter into his ministerial work.

R. McDowell: In 1944, in the autumn, my brother was declared missing in action. He was a navy pilot in the Pacific. There was a very famous battle in the Philippines called the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and he went out with that mission, and he didn't come back.²⁸ When somebody was declared missing in action, that meant that somebody didn't actually see them die. So my mother couldn't have a service for him for a year. Which was very hard on her – it was terrible on her.

I remember coming back to my dormitory that day. My cubbyhole, where you got messages, was stuffed. And I just knew that something horrible had happened. I pretty much fell apart for a few days.

He was 21 when he was killed, and I was 19. There were so many times when I'd think, maybe he was picked up by the Japanese in a prisoner of war camp, and maybe he'd come knocking on my door someday. I went on with that fantasy for years. I always felt cheated that I didn't have a brother later on.

Geyer: We knew when friends of ours lost their husbands. It was something I wouldn't wish anyone else to go through. The feeling was not that he died for a good cause. It was, "What a damn shame. What a ridiculous loss." One of my friends' husband's plane went down. No rhyme nor reason. Sure we were patriotic. But we weren't patriotic when somebody died. Then it was just a dirty trick.

Corbin: You would hear news accounts that we were gaining ground. Then, at once, someone in a family close to you was lost, or somebody next door. I shared all that sorrow at the time. You were pretty callous if you didn't.

It made you all the more angry. You couldn't wait until you were of age to get out and go. And your anger was aimed at the enemy.

C. Moore: In my family, no males were drafted. None were drafted in World War I; none in the Civil War. There were many, many sacrifices made. But my family, not through politics or wealth, managed to avoid being involved, or having our relatives involved.

One of the profound lessons of wartime is that life is unfair.

²⁸ Fought in an island group of the Philippines, the Battle of Leyte Gulf (October 23-26, 1944) pitted U.S. and Australian forces against the Japanese navy.

The U.S. armed forces sustained a total of 416,800 verified military deaths during World War II. Total casualties – dead, wounded, missing – were seldom fully and accurately reported to the home front; if they had been, the numbers would have been beyond most people’s comprehension.

Faber: The casualties started coming in.

B. McDowell: In Burlington, the railroad runs right through the center of town, so the troop trains would go by different times a day. Anybody in town, if they could make it, would go down to watch the troop trains go by, and wave to them and call to them. Every so often the troop trains would stop. Some of the soldiers would get out and come over, talk to you, get back on the train when they would blow the whistle and go out.

We also had trains go through that had wounded men on them. Some of them would be in bunks and looking out the windows, and everybody would wave to them. But you never felt too happy about seeing them. That was always a sad thing to see.

Bogle: It was sadder to see them come back crippled. You couldn’t help but think it was such a waste of life.

Keller: I had a really good friend, a girl who lived close to me. Her boyfriend had been killed, and I went to be with her. It was just sad, the things that happened to these men when they came back, some of them without arms and legs.

Alice Long: Newspapers were loaded with big headlines. Each day there would be something about the war. Each day you would receive a count of what information they were getting about how many kids – how many servicemen – were killed, how many died, how many were missing. I remember reading that every day.

E. Fortenbaugh: I was editor-in-chief of *The Gettysburgian*. I was particularly aware of the casualty stories that were coming in – including, in my case, having been in love with someone whom I’d planned to marry, and he was killed soon after D-Day. I was very aware of what was happening outside, and *The Gettysburgian* was running all these casualty stories, deaths and injuries among the college students.

**Bowman, SAE, Killed
In France On Feb. 9**

**2 Alumni Slain
Fighting Enemy**

**Seven Alumni Killed In
Action Since Last Bulletin**

**O'Neill Killed
On Iwo Jima**

Deaths of Gettysburg College graduates were announced in the College paper and Alumni Bulletin.

Cox: They sent those five boys who had never been separated to begin with, and they wanted to stay together, which I thought was nice. But then the way it ended – they were all completely gone, and that family had no boys left. Then after that, they didn't let the families go together.²⁹

Friday: The death march in Bataan was an extremely serious event that we were all quite mad about. I think when the soldiers landed on the beach at Normandy, that was another. They lost so many men then, and I think that affected everybody.³⁰

Murphy: Normandy didn't seem to be that big an event to us. We didn't understand what it meant. We'd been invading places all over the Pacific – islands, things like that. Why was this so different?

Wickerham: I remember D-Day. That was the day in June we went to Europe from England. Everybody knew this was going to happen at some point, but it was a secret. As soon as it started, then it was no longer a secret. The radio would give us what they could.³¹

Suzanne Rebert: I remember sitting glued to the radio when that was going on. You didn't hear until two weeks later what actually happened.

Maher: I remember when the invasion started, the gloom that fell over the office. We realized the men that were going to die that day.

²⁹ The five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, IA – George, Joe, Frank, Matt, and Al – enlisted a month after Pearl Harbor, and the navy, waiving its own policy, granted their request to be allowed to serve together. Their vessel, the U.S.S. Juneau, sank after being hit by separate torpedoes near Guadalcanal in November 1942. All five brothers died, either instantly or in the aftermath of the sinking.

³⁰ On April 9, 1942, the Imperial Japanese Army began the forced march through the Philippines of approximately 70,000 American and Filipino prisoners. The march went from the site of the Battle of Bataan to the Japanese prison at Camp O'Donnell. Thousands of men died along the way from exhaustion, malnutrition, or murder.

³¹ On June 6, 1944, combined U.S., British, and Canadian forces invaded Nazi-occupied France at the Normandy beachhead. Despite heavy fire and horrific casualties, the invasion succeeded.

Baird: Recently I read a book about the First Division, which was on Omaha Beach. That's where my brother went in, and he must have witnessed some horrendous things. He will not talk about it to this day. He was luckier than the people who'd gone in on the first wave, because they got killed.

Most of the bodies were strewn along the beach in pieces when the second wave came. Imagine being a kid from a farm or a small town – or anywhere, for that matter – and coming across this beach. It would be like a horror movie, only worse.

We didn't know. We had no idea of what those kids had witnessed.

Gloria Saberin: At the USO, we said goodbye to probably 100 young men who were getting ready to go out to the *Indianapolis*. Of course, they were probably all killed. That's the one that was sunk – I think a thousand went into the water, and only 300 didn't get eaten by sharks. That sort of stiffens your backbone a lot. But it's so bad that you just try not to think about anything.³²

Sahm: I went into nurse's training. They were begging for medical technicians, and I had four brothers in the service, so I joined the army. Took my basic training at Fort Des Moines, IA, and went to Wake-man Hospital Center, Camp Atterbury, IN. That's where you really see the devastation of war. You had people coming in – we called them basket patients – they might have no legs, but one arm.

Sloat: That's why we didn't get married before the war. My husband couldn't bear the thought of coming home a basket case, and me sitting there waiting. He said he wouldn't do that to anybody. But a lot of girls didn't care. A lot of girls wanted to get married, because if anything happened, they'd get \$10,000 [as an insurance payout]. I thought that was a terrible thing.

Pilgrim: [At the navy hospital] in Jacksonville [FL], I worked with the boys that came back from the prison camps, and they were – I guess you'd call them psychos, in a way. In the Sixth Ward, when you went on duty, you were locked in with a Marine with a rifle. They were that bad. And of course they were just kids.

Harinski: Our school was one of three in the United States to be chosen to have a cadet nurse program. We had gotten all our training and marching, the drilling, the going through gas chambers and everything. It was a privilege to work for all these poor young people, who were so injured from different things that could happen on the battlefield.

I was sent to Schick Army Hospital, in Clinton, IA – a big army hospital. I worked on a psychiatric ward. These were the young, young, young boys who came back and were just totally demoralized. I had one who would sit on a bench in the corridor and just watch the people go by. He'd put his

³² *The U.S.S. Indianapolis, a heavy cruiser, was a flagship in the Central Pacific theater in 1943-44. It was hit by a Japanese torpedo and sunk on July 30, 1945, just after delivering parts for the first of the two atomic bombs later dropped on Japan. Only 316 of the nearly 1,200 crewman survived. It was the largest single-ship loss of life in U.S. naval history.*

elbows on his knees and hold his head in his hands, and bend over, and he honestly cried puddles of water.

Friday: We used to have beautiful ceremonies for the Gold Star Mothers. If you had lost a son during the war, then you were a Gold Star Mother, and you were honored.

Murphy: That was scary. That was the real measure that this was real. When it got personal, then it was real. To see a gold star was a chilling thing.

Saberin: It was one country after another getting mowed down – people getting killed, gold stars going up everywhere, and long lists of people that had been killed and wounded in the newspapers.

Peterson: We had neighbors who had lost two sons, and the neighborhood would really rally to these people. I remember some people became really bitter towards the war, and towards life in general, after losing a family member. But the majority of these families continued to support the war. Most of them supported it even more.

Saberin: We had a particularly bad time in '44. I was engaged to my fiancé; he was killed, and about 11 other fiancés, brothers, and boyfriends were killed – just in my dormitory, within a three-month period. The phone would ring at night, and the whole dorm would just start crying.

Bogle: All the sadness. Families being sad and all. I was one of the fortunate ones: I didn't have anybody killed in my family, maimed or gassed.

Faber: When you're young, you feel that none of these things can happen to you – nothing can touch you. It takes an accident or a war, that type of thing. It makes you grow up a bit. I think that's the way it was with the war. It made us grow up very quickly.

Scott: In the Second World War, it was thought glorious to be brought back in a body bag. But now people want the glory of war without paying for it in terms of lost relatives, lost brothers and fathers and husbands, and our wounded. You look at the statistics, and you see the numbers of casualties on all sides of the Second World War, and realize that it was truly a massacre.

Koons: One summer when I was a student, I worked for the Railway Express Company in Harrisburg in the railroad station, pulling these big wagons that would have baggage loaded on them. We'd put them in the baggage car, or unload baggage that was destined for Harrisburg.

One of the things that I remember vividly is that there'd be a lot of soldiers going off on these trains, standing sometimes, because the trains would be full of passengers – and that on the baggage cart, where various things were loaded and unloaded, very often, there were caskets with flags draped. That's the war, being on the home front.

– THE DEATH OF FDR –

President Franklin D. Roosevelt died at 3:30 p.m. on April 12, 1945, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage while having his portrait painted at his retreat in Warm Springs, GA. Two hours later, Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, broke the news to Roosevelt's Vice-President, Harry S. Truman.



FDR's funeral, Washington, DC, April 14, 1945.

Pritchard: I came home, and my mother was crying.

Evans: For some reason, and I can't imagine why, we turned the radio on. We heard it, and . . . I was just stunned. I really was, even though we had seen that he was in bad health. We were scared, because the war was still going on.

Johnson: The church bells started ringing, and we all said, "Well, what is it?" Some of the stores up town were draped in black, and all the flags were lowered to half-mast.

Guss: I can remember my brother or someone coming home from the post office and saying, "Hey, Big Boy is dead!"

Keller: We were out in the field cutting asparagus. That's a dirty job, cutting asparagus. I'm walking the street to go home, and I heard two women – one on one side of the street, one on the other side of the street, neighbors – calling back and forth, talking about someone had died. So when I got home – I remember crawling into the house, because I was so dirty – I said to my mother, "Who died?" And she told me it was Franklin Roosevelt.

It was in the spring, cutting asparagus.

Koons: I was a student at the seminary when he died, and that was the week that I was responsible to raise the flag on the flagpole. I'm the one who brought the flag down to half-mast when his death was announced. The radios played only classical music for several days.

Schaffer: My big sister's [college] roommate was a very, very staunch Roosevelt supporter, and when he died, she almost went into seclusion for a couple of months. It really affected her.

Markle: He was the only president I knew my whole life – this was his fourth term. You looked up to this man, and you admired him. There was a great deal of sadness, and a huge concern from the country. The feeling in Washington was that we now had a country bumpkin as the president, and oh my God, what was going to happen now? That was very frightening.

Chase: I'm thinking, "What are they asking? What's this 'Truman' business?"

"Didn't you hear? The President has died!"

And it was like: "Who's Harry Truman?"

Peterson: That is a day that everyone who lived at that time will remember. You must remember that this was in the middle of a war. America lost its president in the middle of a world war. This was devastating to all Americans.

Kresky: It was like the world was coming to an end.

– VICTORY IN EUROPE –

On May 8, 1945, the Allies accepted Germany's unconditional surrender. Declared a public holiday, Victory in Europe Day was known instantly as V-E Day.

Friday: It was the biggest day I've ever witnessed in my life.

Dunkelberger: The bands were playing and the hats were flying.

Chase: The war – the Battle of the Bulge – the invasion of Normandy – had been so awful. Just *awful*. It tore families apart. The fellows who were in it were our friends, our classmates, our family members – it was a terrible, terrible time. So for the Germans to surrender was like, "Oh, God! This is unbelievable!"

B. McDowell: The factory whistles and fire whistles were blowing. The church bells were ringing; there was an awful lot of noise. Then everybody started parading, and everybody kissing each other, and everybody dancing in the street. If you had any kind of instrument, you took that out and blew it, whether you could play it or not. You just blew the horns and beat on the drums, and that went on for hours. All the factories and plants let out, and everybody was just running around town.

That was a free day, boy. I don't think we ate. I think you just ran around town talking to everybody and kissing everybody and having fun.

Burnite: I had moved to Christ Church in York [PA], and was a pastor there. I can recall being in a meeting when V-E Day was announced, and immediately the streets were filled with thousands of people. Church bells were ringing, fire sirens were going. It was a time of jubilation.

Dunkelberger: St. Petersburg [FL] was a city of older people. Everywhere you went, there were green benches, and everywhere you went, you would see white-haired people sitting on the green benches. When we went downtown, we wouldn't even look for young people. There weren't any.

But the night of V-E Day, they turned out en masse. We went into St. Pete to help celebrate, and it was a wild time. The young people were everywhere, and we wondered where they had all come from.

Tome: There was a gang of us kids from St. Mark's Church that were all friends, and we ended up going up to the belfry of the church, and we rang the bell for, I bet you, an hour. Nobody stopped us. For an hour, here's this church bell ringing.

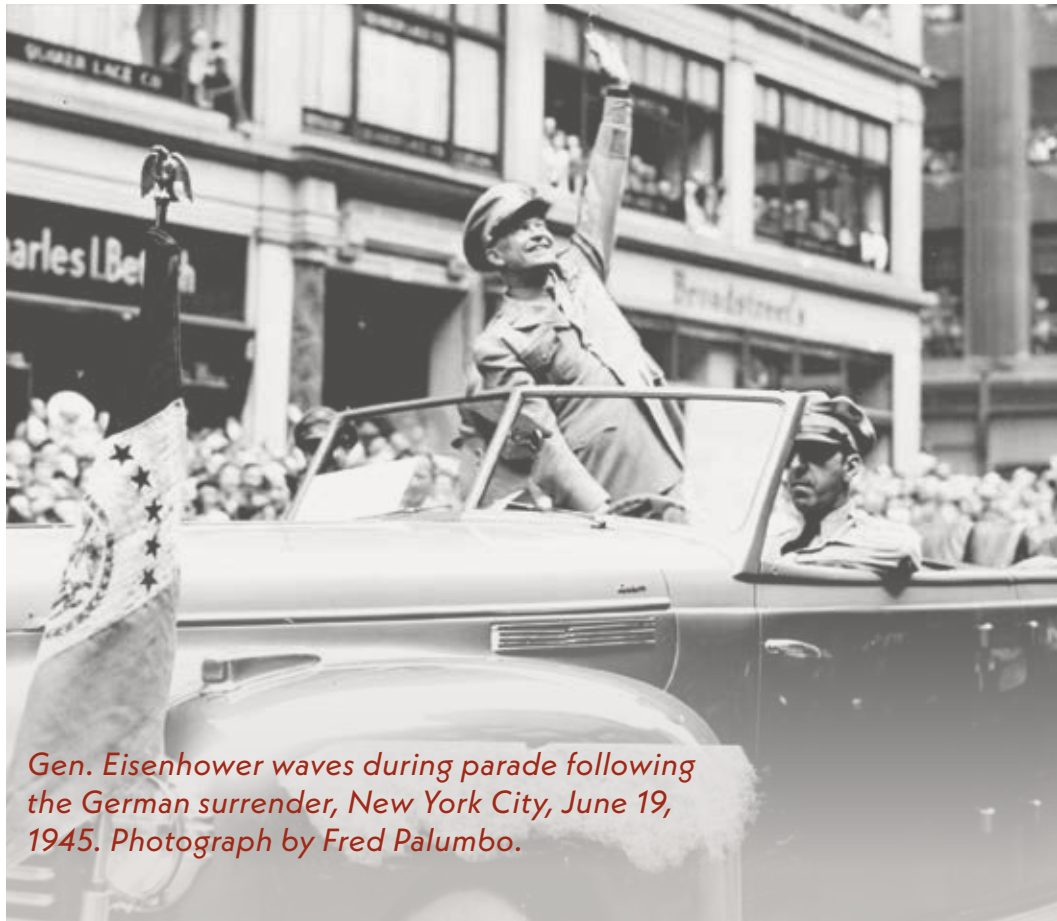
Best: I was in Times Square with my sister Ruth. We walked from 14th Street up to Times Square. Believe me, there was dancing in the street, people kissing one another. It was just wonderful.

We left there, and we went home. We got off the train in Matewan [NJ], and we were walking to where we lived, which was a good two miles, and the cars – people didn't care about rationing or anything else. They were out, they were honking the horns, they were calling out, and it was just a wonderful time.

Thompson: We all did a big dance out on the field of the College. It was very exciting. Unlike the kids of today, we didn't go knocking down posts and turning over cars and all that. I don't know why that has to be such a big part of it, to show anybody that you're happy.

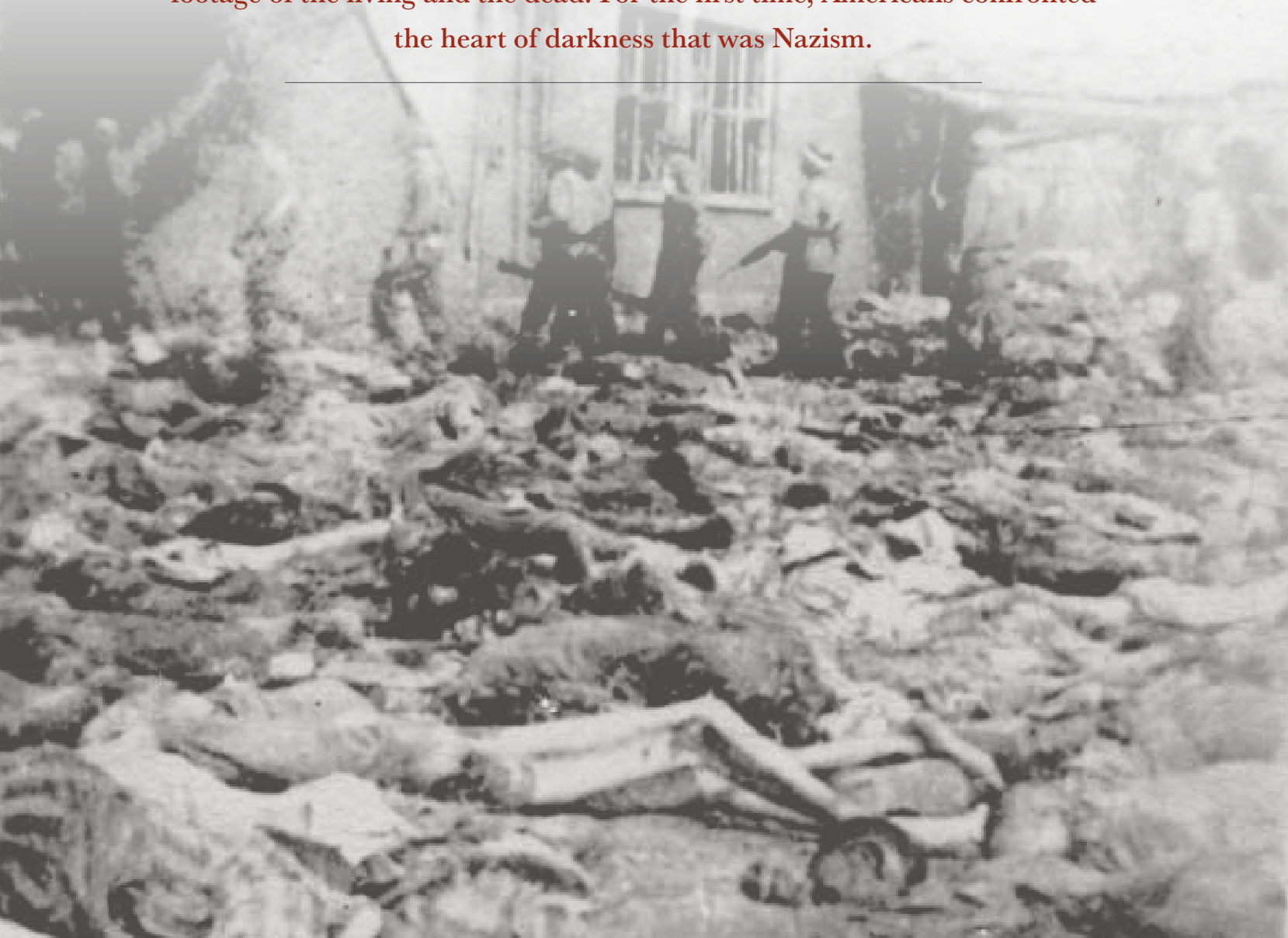
Friday: Everybody – every little kid, every grownup in the city of Clairton [PA] – was downtown, and the soldiers were going by in a car, and we were cheering. We had bands playing, we had marching. Everybody was hugging everybody else. If you didn't know them, you didn't care. You just hugged.

Dunlop: I worked that summer in New York for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Eisenhower came back from Europe; that was a thrill to see. He was in a convertible, and he stood there like this [making "Victory" signs with raised hands]. I'll never forget that – seeing him in that convertible, going up Fifth Avenue.



Gen. Eisenhower waves during parade following the German surrender, New York City, June 19, 1945. Photograph by Fred Palumbo.

Most Americans knew little or nothing of the Nazi extermination camps until V-E Day, when images from behind the lines began to appear in the U.S. In its issue of May 7, *LIFE* magazine carried the first stateside photographs from the Buchenwald camp, and newsreels showed graphic footage of the living and the dead. For the first time, Americans confronted the heart of darkness that was Nazism.



Pilgrim: There were rumors that there were death camps. But no one believed it, because you didn't believe that anybody could do that.

Fehringer: We were shocked to know that it was that bad. I think that we in America are too much kept away from these things, and we really don't know what is going on. We are immune; we have it too easy. That is just my opinion.

Bream: We were all horrified. We couldn't believe that it could happen. We felt there was no punishment too severe for those who had been involved with that.

Evans: We were living in New York City after war was declared, and we met many people who had fled Europe because of the Nazi persecution. They had relatives who they were hoping could get out of Europe, but some of them wouldn't come because they had established businesses and professions. They couldn't believe this was really truly going to happen in a civilized world. We later found out that many of those people that we knew in New York never saw their relatives again.

Baskerville: I had in my class two German Jewish kids who had been got out by, I suppose, relatives here. Our teachers made us aware that these two kids we were to be nice to, and that they had escaped from Germany. But we weren't told anything about Auschwitz, or the rest of that.

The news about the Jews in Europe didn't rank a very great place in the general newspaper. There was a fairly strong anti-Semitism that was general in this country. People don't like to acknowledge that, but there was.

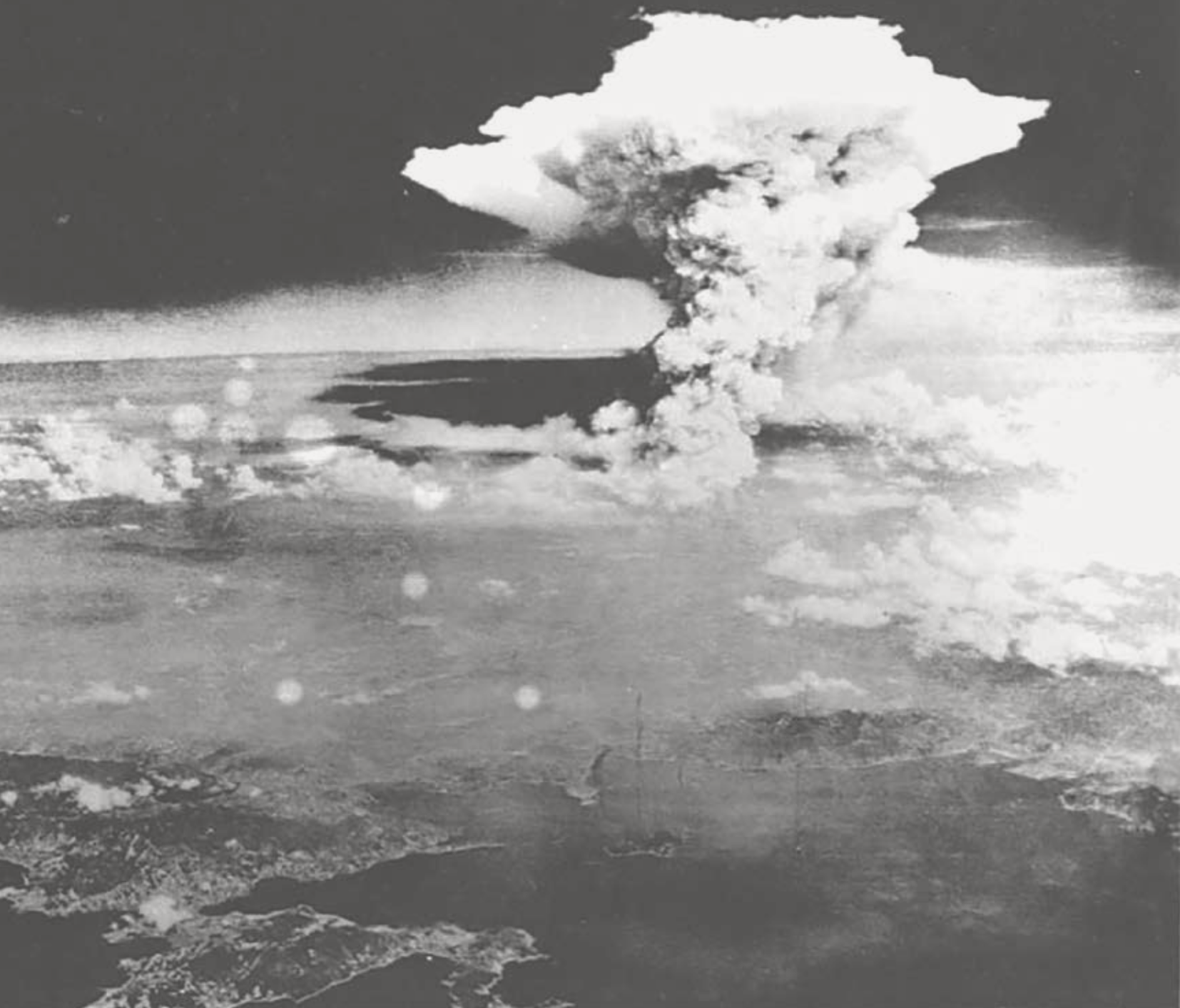
C. Moore: It was only after the war that we learned about the barbarities of Buchenwald and Auschwitz. I've been to Auschwitz. One of the ovens was still there; a barracks was still there, with photographs of what went on, from the erection of the camp to its full operation. It was a terrible thing. But we were totally, completely oblivious.

Schneider: I knew that there were concentration camps, and that they were bad, but I didn't really empathize with the people. I didn't really relate to them. I just knew that it was something that was happening in Germany. I didn't know very many Jewish people, and I didn't know anybody in particular who was in a concentration camp.

It wasn't until much later, when I did more reading about the concentration camps, that I really thought, "How could we have tolerated that in this day and age?"

Opposite: *This image of an unidentified Nazi concentration camp was brought back by Pvt. Albert J. Hobor of the U.S. Army's Engineer Combat Battalion.*

The atomic bombing of Hiroshima, August 6, 1945.



– VICTORY IN JAPAN –

Over a period of three years, U.S. scientists working on the “Manhattan Project” had engineered the capacity to detonate an atomic bomb. President Truman made the decision to employ the bomb as a means of keeping the Soviets out of the war, and of bringing the conflict to a close without resorting to a costly invasion of mainland Japan. Two bombs were dropped by the crew of the Army Air Force Superfortress bomber *Enola Gay* – the first over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the second over Nagasaki three days later.

Chase: That was something you couldn’t comprehend. How do you wrap your mind around that – what are they talking about? An atom bomb? An atom bomb that they made under bleachers in Chicago, or wherever they made it, or whatever they’re talking about?

Conroy: I remember a group of us talking about it, all guys, not understanding anything about it, and then, when we got to school, asking a science teacher to explain what an atomic bomb was. And he didn’t know.

Heiges: One of our friends, a graduate of Gettysburg College who was working in New York City, was very secretive about what he was doing. We soon learned he was working on the Manhattan Project, and couldn’t talk about it. My immediate reaction was, “Ah, this is what our friend was working on.”

Baskerville: What would anybody’s reaction at that time be? We didn’t know what the hell this thing was. As far as we were concerned, it was just what they deserved.

Mary Crouthamel: I think that everybody knew that we would win, but we didn’t know when. There is a lot of criticism that you read about the atomic bomb, but I think that really saved many, many, many lives. As terrible as the atomic bomb is – it did kill and maim a lot of people, it was really terrible – I do feel it would have been a lot worse if we hadn’t done that.

Bogle: A lot of people thought it was terrible. Yet if you had a brother or a sister or a father over there, you thought, well, it's better than them taking my father, or my sister, or my brother, or whatever. It was something that just had to be done.

Friday: I knew that that ended the war, and that was probably a good thing for us. But the devastation – I wouldn't want to see that again. Never.

I think we all felt it was justified to end the war. But I think we felt it was a horrible thing to do to the people – ordinary people. They had destroyed Pearl Harbor, so in some ways it was justified. But for humanity, it was not a good thing.

Geyer: It was the only solution. The only answer. I wasn't upset by it. I was upset more by all the horror of the Japanese war than by the European. But that was the only way we could end it. Those little sneaky guys would have gone on and on.

DeLuca: We were overjoyed. You were fighting an enemy that was so brutal. A lot of people lost their lives, but we knew a lot of American soldiers were alive that wouldn't have been. And that was more important to us at the time.

Barriga: I was appalled. I thought what they had unleashed there was the most awful knowledge to have, and I knew there wasn't any way they could control it.

Keller: I'm sorry, but I didn't feel any regret. It was a terrible thing, such destruction and loss of life, but I had the feeling, "Better them than us."

Burnite: We didn't think of the horror or the suffering, because we weren't told. All we knew was that it would perhaps bring the war to an end rapidly, and that's all we were interested in – the end of the war. We didn't know the power of the atomic bomb. We saw the mushroom clouds, but we weren't told about the radioactive fallout, and the hundreds of thousands who were killed right on the spot. We didn't know that.

Evans: We knew a lot of scientists who were involved in that. They all had doubts about unleashing it. The Japanese would literally, I think, have fought to the death. I really believe that. It was an awful shock. But we were also, selfishly, very, very relieved. This had been a long, hard war.

Poloney: We weren't thinking of the people that were killed. All you were thinking was, "It's over. Our guys will come home. They'll still be alive." It was a sort of survivor mode. But then, after you got all the information and found out what happened to those women and children, you thought, "Oh my gosh, that was terrible."

Versace: I realize Truman had a decision to make, and he had to come to a conclusion. I'm sure he wasn't happy about it. But the fact that you're dropping this bomb where people are, and they're going to be burnt alive, or left maimed and whatnot – that didn't sit very well.

I would say, "Find another way." But the other way wasn't there.

Hegeman: It was like when 9/11 hit. It was just humanity disappearing.

Japan's unconditional surrender was announced to the world on August 14, 1945, which became known as Victory in Japan Day, or V-J Day. It set off spontaneous, boisterous celebrations in virtually every American community – a second moment of untroubled exultation before thoughts turned to what lay ahead in a postwar world.

Chase: When the Japanese surrendered, it was not such an emotional thing as it was when the Germans surrendered.

Platt: Everybody was ecstatic, but sobered, because we knew what we'd lost in the way of men. You were thrilled that it was over, but you knew dang good and well it wasn't over for some people.

It was, for people like myself, a bit muted. I'd lost a couple of friends, my cousin had lost a cousin, and so you didn't just jump up and down and say, "Whoopee!"

Cox: I remember being on F Street in Washington, DC, that night, and the streetcars could not get through. The man would clang and clang, trying to get people off the track.

Leer: I had clinical training at Gallagher Hospital in Washington, DC; I was there on V-J Day. No vehicle was able to move. No third-rail trolleys, no taxis. Everybody was out.

Riley: I was in Times Square, and you couldn't fall down if you wanted to. Such celebrating! And the ships coming in, and these boys getting down and kissing the ground.

Moran: We were doing some drinking at this time. When we got wind that maybe the war was coming to an end, this particular girlfriend and I saved up our rationing tickets. All of our other girlfriends, they didn't do that. Mary and I were the only ones who had a full liquor cabinet to celebrate with.

Baird: Your father can have as much gas as he wants. You can go to the store and get the cut of meat you want. You can get a pound of sugar if you want, or five, or 10. It was over.

Cox: It was just one big wild party – I don't think anyone got any sleep that night. It was a very nice crowd, a friendly crowd. I cannot remember any problems, with all the excitement and everything. Whereas today, with a crowd like that, you would have had a problem.

Bartell: I was in Philadelphia when the war was over, and everything shut down. It was a good riot. No more people were going to be killed.

Haas: When the war was over, they built big bonfires all along the Jersey shore, and people that would be ordinarily refined were dancing in the streets. Actually, when the news came, my girlfriend and I were in the theater. They had almost finished the movie and the thing flashed on that the war was over. A lot of people left. They had snake-dances up and down the boardwalk.

Peterson: It was pandemonium. They poured out into the streets.

Murphy: And you knew the war was really over.

*Representatives of the Empire of Japan formally
surrender onboard the U.S.S. Missouri, Tokyo Bay,
September 2, 1945.*



– STARTING OVER –

The demand for a quick demobilization of the armed forces after V-J Day was intense. Dozens of cruisers and battleships were hastily repurposed as troop ships; in December 1945 alone, one million servicemen were officially discharged. But the planned occupations of Germany, Austria, and Japan slowed the flow considerably, and the draft would not officially end until March 1947. In the meantime, troops and their loved ones at home suffered agonies of frustration.

Once home, millions of veterans returned to the jobs they had held before going into the service. Several million women who had pitched in at defense plants found their services were no longer needed, as the federal government immediately cancelled its orders for munitions. Returning veterans took advantage of FDR's Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, aka the GI Bill, to enter college or take out low-interest home loans. By late 1946, what would become known as the "Baby Boom" was well underway.

Frances DiMura: I told my mother and father I was coming home, but I didn't tell them exactly when. I wanted to surprise them. So I landed in the train station in Albany, all by myself, and walked from there. I walked up the stairs, and I could hear my mother and father talking about the war and everything. My mother said, "When's he coming home?" I knocked on the door, and my mother saw me. She almost passed out.

Peterson: Then it was back to reality. We had to get these soldiers home and get them back to work.

Ramer: We had to make a lot of adjustments and all like that. The men had to get their jobs back, and if they didn't get their jobs back, many of them went on to school. Families had been separated, and they all had to learn to live together again.

It was nice to go off those rationing stamps. That was grand.

Egan-Elwood: The women got a taste of making decent money, and a lot of them stayed in the work force. But a lot of them were glad to have their men home, and they went back to their little houses and started to raise their families. It took a while for that adjustment, but America did it, and we got stronger for it.

Riley: The funny part is that most of these couples, if they did come home, lived to celebrate golden wedding anniversaries. My sister didn't see her husband for 37 months; that's over three years. When he came home, they were like strangers. And yet they're married 50 years.

Guss: My sophomore year in college, all the boys were coming back from the war. I think they took 10 girls, most of whom lived in Gettysburg, and as sophomores we ended up four to a room. It was pretty crowded. The boys took back the fraternity houses.

G. Smith: The men that really saw action, they never would talk much about it. You got more off of the people who never saw action – they talked more about how horrible it was. The ones who were really in the depth of it, they did not talk much about it.

Markle: There was a place out in Maryland, out in Forest Glen, where veterans would go to recuperate. We used to ride our bikes up there and spend time with people who were in casts, various stages of amputation, and other things. We would talk to them. They didn't say too much.

G. Smith: Now my brother, he came home with a German uniform. I have no idea how he got it, and he never talked about anything that happened over there. He told us some things – what the Germans did to the Americans when they were dead. They would cut their fingers off to get the jewelry, things like that. So now he comes up with this suit. I have no idea how he got it.

Ruths: My brother was still in Germany when the war ended. His unit was the 103rd Infantry, and he'd engaged in hand-to-hand fighting and bayonet fighting. You would have had to know what that meant to him. He was a quiet person; he couldn't kill a chicken. Yet he had to be trained to kill. When he came home, he didn't sleep well. He screamed almost every night.

Murphy: We didn't realize how traumatized these guys had been, many of them. Some were very reclusive, wouldn't talk. There was this one man, and my father really liked him, but he had been in the 82nd Airborne and seen some nasty combat. They hired him into the factories in '45-'46, and he didn't adapt well. Too screwed up mentally.

My dad had a confrontation with him; he just wasn't performing. The former soldier said to him, "But you owe me." Dad looked him in the eye and said, "Mister, I don't owe you nothing. You're gone." Fired him. He said, "It was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do."

Koons: My brother came back, and I think he had some psychological trauma that he never talked about. A day or two after he returned, he would have episodes, kind of blacking out. Always after that, he had to take some sort of medication. He was a very sensitive, poetic kind of person, and I think he probably saw some horrible thing that he internalized.

Mara: When my husband first got back to school, he lived in Old Dorm. We were going to go out some place, so I said, "I'll just come on over and wait for you outside the dorm." I decided it would be fun if, when he came out, I'd scare him. So I hid behind some of those trees that are still there, and said "Boo!" He said he was never so scared in his life – he was sure he was going to kill me. His immediate thing, with that noise he wasn't expecting, was that it was a German, and he was ready to throw me right over his shoulders before he saw who it was.

Schultz: I would always say [to my son], "Whose picture is that?" I would look at a picture, and this little boy would say "Dada." He knew the picture, and he knew it was his daddy. But the first night after my husband got home, he walked into the bedroom and said, "Who's that in bed?"

Geyer: We made the most of every moment after he got home. We realized then how precious our time together was.



Memorial Day parade, Gettysburg, 1950.

Seven barracks were built at Gettysburg College in late 1946 to hold a record number of new students – many of them returning servicemen.



– LAST THOUGHTS –

The Second World War had brought Americans together in common cause as never before and never since. Victory in 1945 was deeply satisfying, and in its wake – as “normal” life was gradually restored and new opportunities arose – Americans looked ahead, devoting little time to reflection. As the historian Stephen Ambrose has noted, the World War II generation became the “buildingest” generation in American history. Its legacy endures.

Bogle: It was difficult times. It made you grow up faster, though. You had to be more independent, and just get along the best you could.

Ramer: Were we going to be able to save democracy, or weren't we? Were we going to be defeated, or weren't we? It was a horrible period, really a horrible period to live through.

Burnite: It was supposed to be a short war. But it wasn't, and we realized it was going to be of tremendous impact. Another thing we knew was that we couldn't come out of World War II as we came out of World War I – pie in the sky. We knew that the whole world had been torn apart, and there had to be a tremendous rebuilding.

Craver: When the war ended, we all had very different values than we had before. We realized what a marvelous force of young men we had in our country, who would willingly give themselves. They must have hated what they did, but they did it well enough to save our country. I am eternally grateful to them for that.

Shand: A couple of Harvard professors were very involved in psychological warfare, and there was a concerted effort on the part of psychologists in general to develop intelligence tests, and tests of leadership. These new tests were eventually drawn up into a book, which was published after the war. It showed the unusual things psychologists were doing to try to develop a way to select leaders – the kinds of tests they would put soldiers through to see if they would hold up under difficult situations.

Psychology did a lot for the war. Clinical psychology began to develop in a way it never had prior to that. That was one of the interesting, valuable things which came out of the war.

Staub: World War II did wake America up, there's no doubt about that. Woke 'em up to what they could do industrially. A lot of Americans never believed they could do it. They just couldn't believe that they could manufacture products as fast as they could, as good as it was. Even Henry Ford was not convinced for a long time – until the government started buying his vehicles, and that was a different story.

World War II made Budweiser what they were. It made the cigarette companies what they were. Of course, as you look back on it now, they knew exactly what they were doing. They were hooking these guys on cigarettes, and when they came back, they had a stash of customers ready to buy that product, come hell or high water. And it worked.

Conroy: [The steel mills around Pittsburgh] had been built in the Twenties, some of them probably back around the time of the First World War. They hadn't been worked that hard during the Depression, and they were allowed to rust a bit. Then the war came, and they worked them 24 hours a day. They didn't stop, and they wore them out.

After the war, they were worn-out hulks. They couldn't compete. That's one reason we lost the steel industry: we had an old, worn-out industry, and that was a result of the Second World War. They won the war, those mills, but they burned themselves out doing it.

Bogle: The men woke up [to the fact] that women could really do a lot of things. That was one good thing that came out of the war.

Campbell: I was 15 when it was over. It's a terrible thing to say, but I was a little disappointed that it was over before I could get there.

Davis: Everybody cared about someone else's child. You cared about your neighbor. It was a whole different world.

Bogle: People were kinder to one another, I think, than they were before. We had a common cause. We all wanted to win. We all wanted our boys back. We all wanted peace.

Baird: You just wanted it to be over, and you were thankful when it was over.
And before you knew it, there was another one. And we're still at it.

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Dean of the Library
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– THE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER SOCIETY –

Since its founding in 1969, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society has worked to fulfill Mamie Eisenhower's dream that the Society be "a perpetual living memorial to Ike." The Society conducts annual observances to remember Eisenhower's life and work. As a non-profit organization, the Society extends the Eisenhower legacy through educational programming, by partnering with other Eisenhower heritage organizations, and by granting funds to support and promote Eisenhower-related projects.

– CREDITS AND SOURCES –

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Adams County Historical Society: [iv], [vi], 3, 4, 6, 11, 29 (right), 30, 42, 44, 53, 72, 84, 91, 96, 102, 103, 133.

National Archives and Records Administration: 16, 18, 23, 33, 62, 64, 108, 126, 130.

Gettysburg Times, December 8, 1941: 28.

Library of Congress: 54, 59, 61 (top). 73, 76, 79, 92, 98, 120, 123.

Hankey Center and Archives, Wilson College: 57 (both).

Patrick Tillery, kilroywashere.org: 83.

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William E. Troxell '50: Blue Star Flag. Cover.

Julia Howard '67: Ration stamps; *Tale of a City* (Office of War Information, 1942); ration book, stamps, and cookbook. End papers, 20-21, 74.

Marianne Larkin '71: George Larkin and Mary Berger; Berger family; Blue Star Flag. 13, 22, 114.

Eileen Thomas: Letter from Abel to Fern (surnames unknown), December 8, 1941. 26 (left).

George, Kim, and Lynn Hatcher '17: 1940 RCA Victor Radio, Model 15X. George Hatcher's family listened to news of the Pearl Harbor attack on this device. 26 (right).

Clinton Baugess: Inset from sheet music score, "We Did It Before (And We Can Do It Again)," by Cliff Friend and Charlie Tobias, 1941. 60.

Donald Brett: War bond poster depicting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. 67.

Clarence H. Copping: Ernie Kranias; cadets marching; soldier in Lincoln Square; obstacle course. 8, 87, 88-89.

Michael Hobor '69: Liberation of unidentified Nazi concentration camp, c. 1945. 124.

