

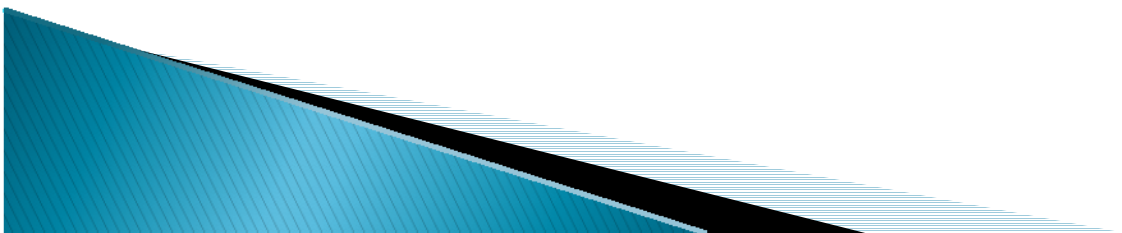
75 Years Ago

World War II – 1942

The End of the Beginning

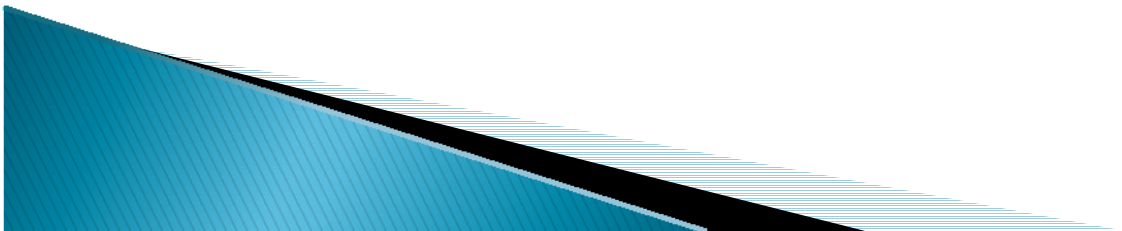
Four Lectures

- **The American Home Front**
- **War in the Pacific**
- **The European Theater of Operations**
- **The German Home Front**



Preface

- ▶ Why look back 75 years? Isn't everything already known about that period?
 - Yes, but this is 75th anniversary!
 - 1941-42 seminal period in modern history
 - Review useful. Prompts remembrance.
- ▶ Will try to avoid simple recitation of dates and places.
 - Use diaries, books, journalistic pieces for insight
- ▶ Beware: amateur historian! Cites dubious.



#1. The Homefront



We'll look at:

- ▶ Political and Social Setting
- ▶ Personal Reactions
- ▶ Homeland Security
- ▶ Industrial Mobilization
- ▶ Military Service
- ▶ Rationing
- ▶ Civil Defense
- ▶ Popular Culture
- ▶ Social Changes

75 Years Ago (and a month)

One Overriding Event: Pearl Harbor

- ▶ Ships sunk or damaged
 - 8 Battleships
 - 1 Training Battleship
 - 3 Cruisers
 - 3 Destroyers
 - 3 Auxiliaries
- ▶ Aircraft
 - 160 damaged or destroyed
- ▶ Personnel
 - 2400 killed, 1000 wounded



Attack on Pearl Caught American Leadership, Media Overconfident



"Everything [is] ready. From Rangoon to Honolulu, every man [is] at battle stations." *Time Magazine on Pacific readiness*

Press coverage the morning of 7 December 1941: "... the two news items carrying the most space on the front pages were the romantic marriage of the King of the Belgians, and this quote from Frank Knox, Secy of Navy: "The American people may feel fully confident in their Navy."

Alistaire Cooke

"Shock and Awe!"

Numbed confusion:

- ▶ Regarding crowd staring through the White House fence: "*They reminded me of the crowds around Quai d'Orsay or Downing Street a couple of years ago...The look of people going to war!*"

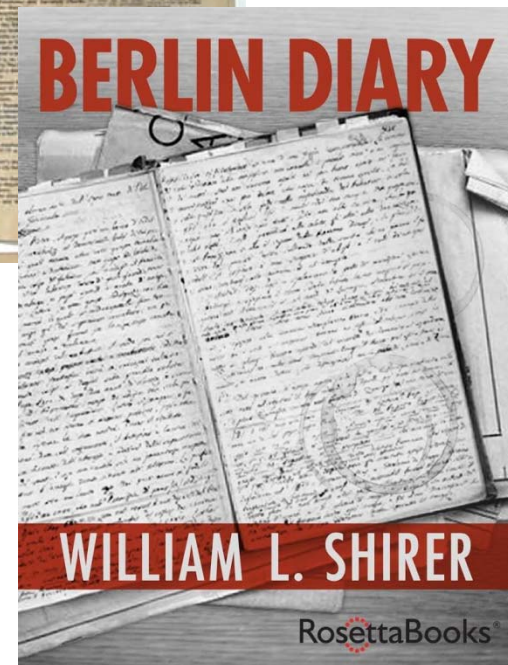
Eric Sevareid to Edward R Murrow.

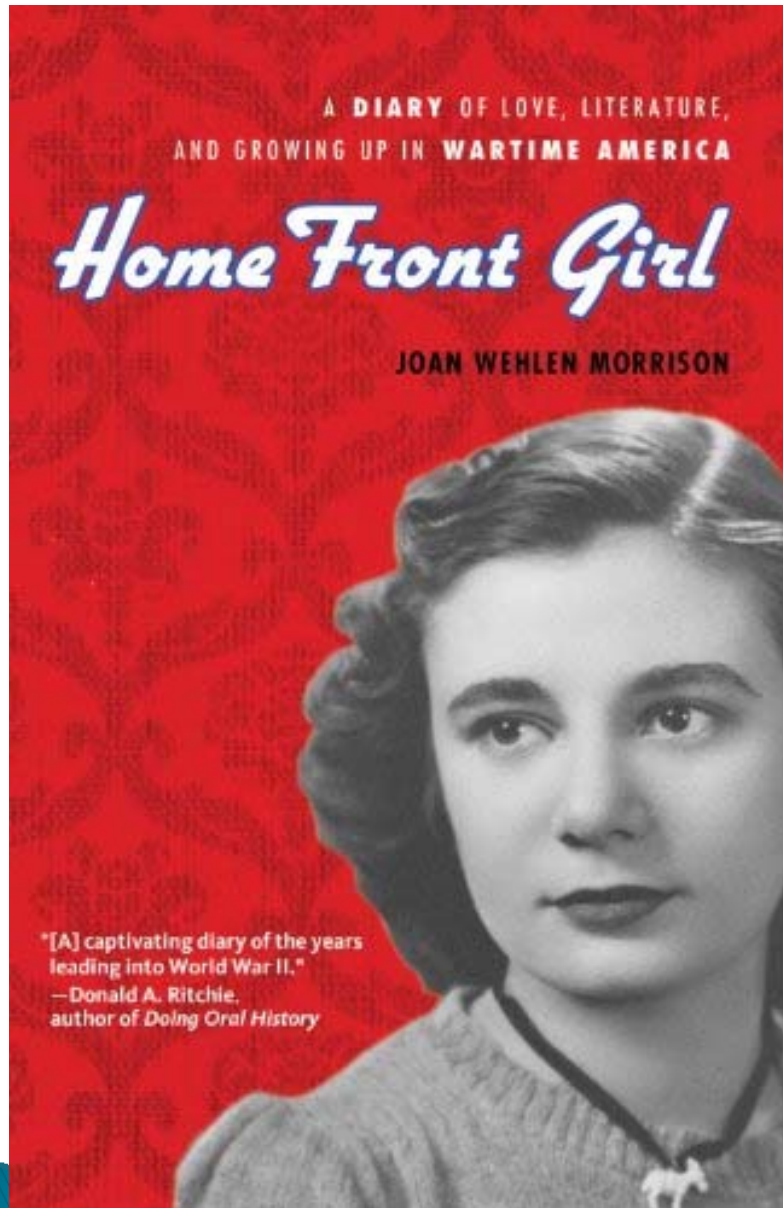
- ▶ Not unlike Germany.
 - The people of Berlin were strangely calm following the announcement that London and Paris had declared war on Germany.

William Shirer

- ▶ *Where is Pearl Harbor?*
"How the hell did they get there?"

John L. Lewis, UMW





Sunday, 7 December 1941:

Well, baby, it's come. What we always knew would come, what we never quite believed in. And deathly calm all about it. No people in noisy, excited little clusters on the streets. Only silent faces on the streetcars ...

Monday, December 8, 1941:

Well, the first day is over. It's unbelievably calm. ... England declared war at 8:30 - beat us ... my God, we are at war!

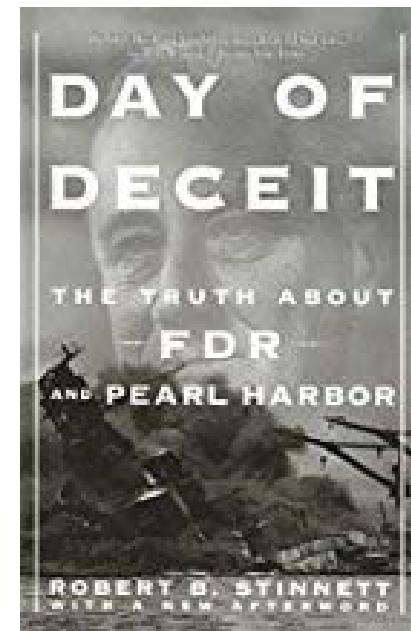
Conspiracy Accusations

Objective: U.S. Entry into European conflict

Obstacles: Public resistance, isolationism.


Strategy: Lure the Japanese into attacking U.S.

Tactic: Embargo oil exports to Japan, forcing it to secure oil elsewhere. That forced Japan to take military action against U.S.
Dangle Pearl Harbor as bait.



"A celebration of the American character and a fitting testament to a fine journalist."
—*The Bookeller*

THE
AMERICAN HOME FRONT
1941-1942
ALISTAIR COOKE



The “Winter of Disaster”

- ▶ String of Japanese victories across Pacific
 - Dec 8th: Japan takes Gilberts, bombs Clark Field, attacks Thailand.
 - 10th: Japan sinks HMS *Repulse* and *Prince of Wales*
 - 23rd: Wake surrenders
 - 25th: Hong Kong surrenders to Japan.
- ▶ Jan 2nd: Manila occupied.
 - 11th: Kuala Lumpur falls.
 - 20th: Japanese bomb Singapore.
 - 25th: Thailand declares war on United States.
- ▶ Feb 3rd: Japanese bomb Surabaya, Port Moresby.
 - 17th: Rangoon evacuated.
 - 19th: Japanese aircraft attack Darwin.
 - 28th: Japanese invade Java.



Suspicious, Scapegoats

- Roberts Commission appointed within days of attack
 - Nine major inquiries 1941-46
- Admiral Husband Kimmel, LT GEN Walter Short
 - Accused of errors of judgment, dereliction of duty, ignored warnings, failed to establish proper alert
 - Demoted, relieved, retired (later exonerated)
- McArthur escapes censure but lost Asiatic Fleet,
- Public suspicious
 - FDR conspiracy? Created an inviting target?
 - Had moved fleet from San Diego to Hawaii
 - Navy objections ignored
- But FDR administration escapes consequences.



Personal Reactions: Jingoism

- Much like days after 911
- Anti-War Movement
- Antipathy focused on Japan.
 - West Coast hysteria!
 - Aircraft, submarine sightings
 - The Battle of Los Angeles
 - Japanese-Americans bear brunt of reaction. 5,500 detained initially.
- Germans, Italians seem to escape U.S. wrath.
 - War against Germany and Italy not declared until after they had declared war on U.S.
 - Only 620 Germans, 98 Italians detained



Japanese-Americans Reviled

- ▶ Long standing white resentment of J-A:
 - *"This restaurant poisons both rats and Japs!"*
- ▶ J-A children accosted in public.
- ▶ Vigilantes attack "Little Tokyo" settlements
- ▶ "How to Spot a Jap" - Milton Caniff
- ▶ Police report seizing large numbers of guns, bombs:
 - Actually guns taken from J-A owned sporting goods stores. Bombs turned out to be empty pipes.
- ▶ Western Military District fans flames. Repeats bogus enemy sightings as intelligence reports.



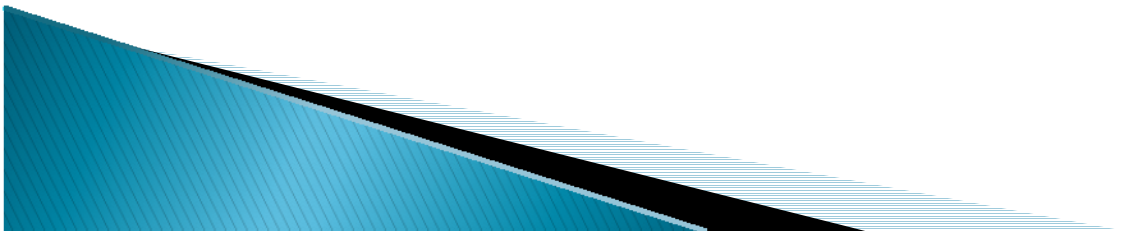
American Leadership Lines Up against Japanese-Americans

- ▶ Earl Warren, Attorney General, CA
- ▶ Frank Knox, SecNav
- ▶ California Governor Olsen
- ▶ LA Mayor Bowron
- ▶ All members of Congress from CA, OR, WA
- ▶ LTG John DeWitt, WMD
- ▶ Milton Eisenhower, later became Director of WRA
- ▶ Warren Magnuson, future WA senator
- ▶ Edward R Murrow
- ▶ Walter Lippman,
- ▶ Damon Runyan,
- ▶ Westbrook Pegler



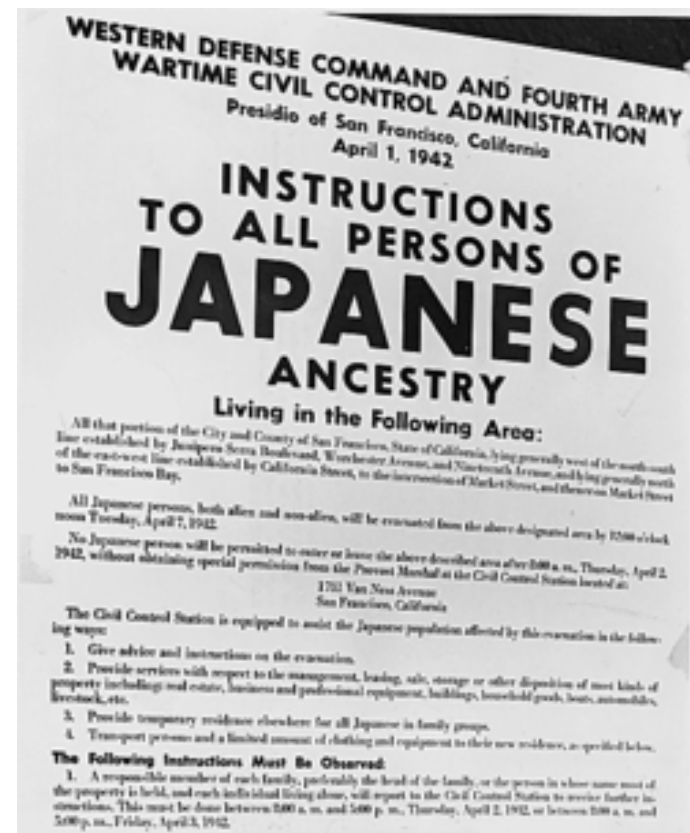
Only a Few Defend J-A

- ▶ Eleanor Roosevelt
- ▶ AG Biddle
- ▶ Ernie Pyle
- ▶ Army DCOS Mark Clark
- ▶ J. Edgar Hoover



Executive Order 9066

- ▶ 19 Feb 1942 – FDR authorizes Secretary of War or appropriate military commander to prescribe certain areas as military zones, "from which any or all persons may be excluded."
- ▶ Never mentions Japanese-Americans specifically.



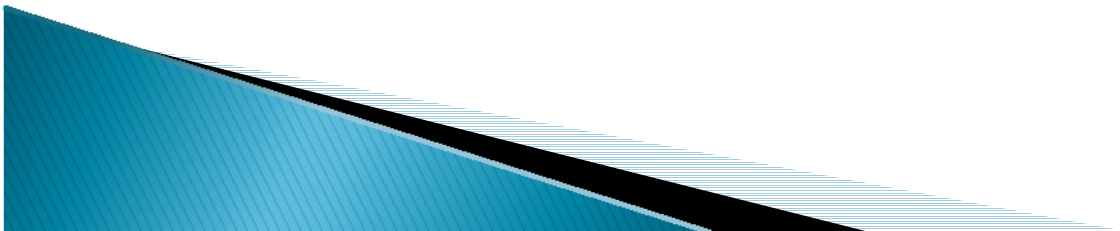
Army Rounds Up “Evacuees”

- ▶ Two weeks notice.
- ▶ Japanese–Americans politely compliant
- ▶ Houses, businesses, farms, personal property sold for pennies on-the-dollar.
- ▶ Evacuees must carry blankets, linens, clothing, dishes, toiletries.



Collected in Assembly Centers

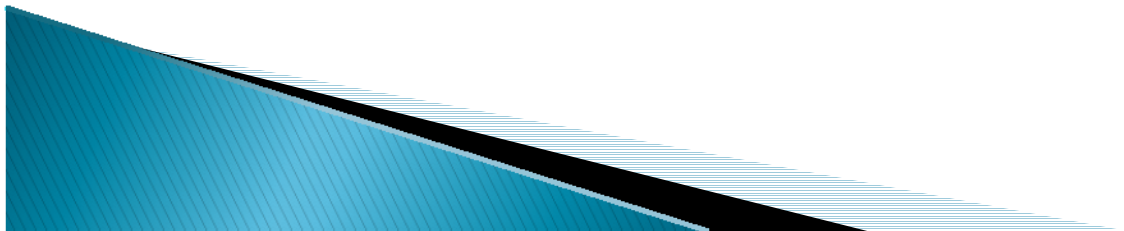
- Most “evacuees” moved first to holding sites while permanent Army prepared relocation centers.
- By Aug, 110,000 assembled. Most were racetracks (Santa Anita) or fairgrounds
- Crowded, miserable conditions



Moved to Relocation Centers

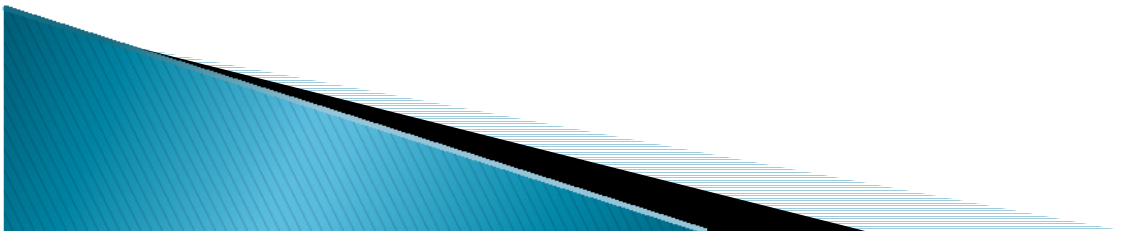
10 of Them in Seven States

- ▶ Gila River War Relocation Center, Arizona
- ▶ Granada War Relocation Center, Colorado
- ▶ Heart Mountain War Relocation Center, Wyoming
- ▶ Jerome War Relocation Center, Arkansas
- ▶ Manzanar War Relocation Center, California
- ▶ Minidoka War Relocation Center, Idaho
- ▶ Poston War Relocation Center, Arizona
- ▶ Rohwer War Relocation Center, Arkansas
- ▶ Topaz War Relocation Center, Utah
- ▶ Tule Lake War Relocation Center, California



Arsenal of Democracy

- ▶ In 1941, U.S. Third rate military power.
 - "U.S. Army looked like a few nice boys with BB guns." Time Magazine
- ▶ By end of war U.S. had produced:
 - 160 aircraft carriers
 - 8 battleships
 - 807 cruisers, destroyers
 - 203 submarines
 - 88,000 tanks
 - 640,000 jeeps
 - 325,000 aircraft



Relocation Centers Miserable

- ▶ Mostly tarpaper shacks
- ▶ Hot, cold, dusty wx
- ▶ Barbed wire fences
- ▶ Guard towers
- ▶ Armed guards
- ▶ Communal toilets
- ▶ No family meals
- ▶ Traditional culture subverted

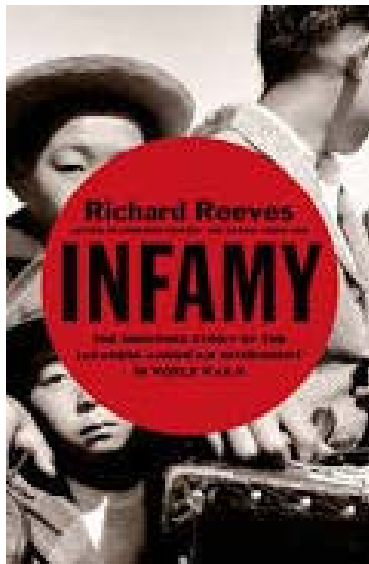


Manzanar, CA

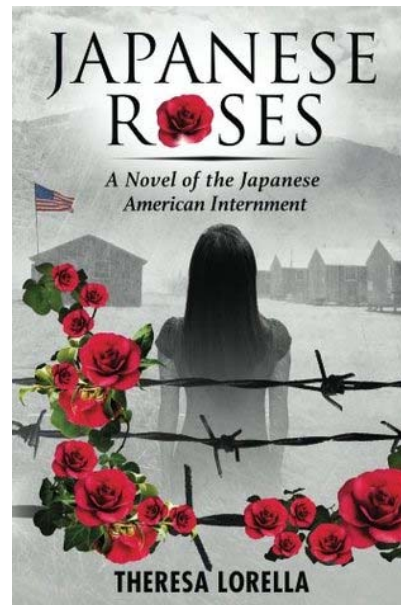


Gila River, AZ

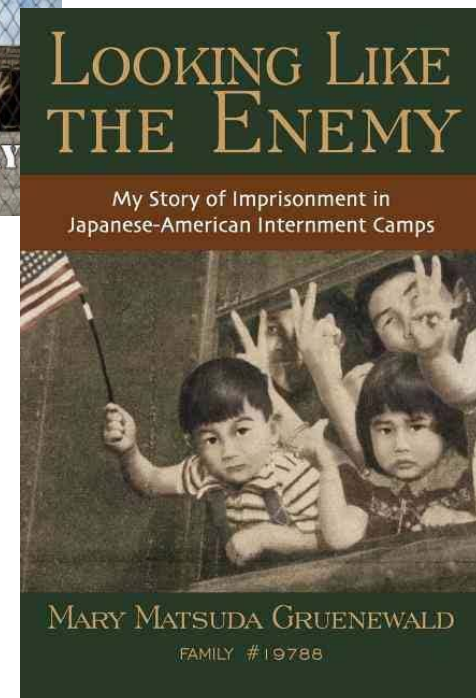
Japanese-American Internment Sad Chapter in U.S. History



Best
Historical
Account



Excellent
personal
accounts

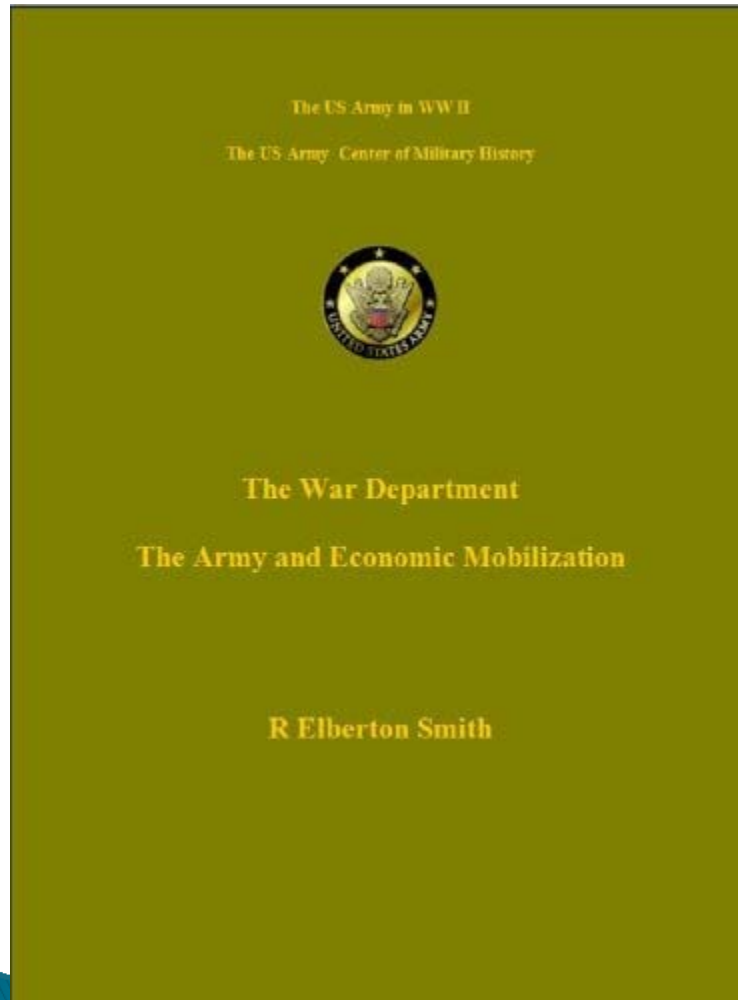


Was There Any Real Basis for Invasion Fear? NO!

- ▶ Feb 23 – Sub fires 17 shells at Santa Barbara oil refinery. Little damage
- ▶ Feb 25 – Battle of Los Angeles
 - 1,400 shells fired by U.S. at false alarm
 - Six deaths
- ▶ June 21 – Sub fires on Fort Stevens
 - Damages baseball field backstop.
- ▶ 12 June – Six German saboteurs Landed on Long Island.
 - Subsequently caught, executed 8 August.
- ▶ 9 Sep Japanese float plane drops incendiaries near Brookings, OR
- ▶ No treason ever documented. No charges brought.



WW II Industrial Mobilization

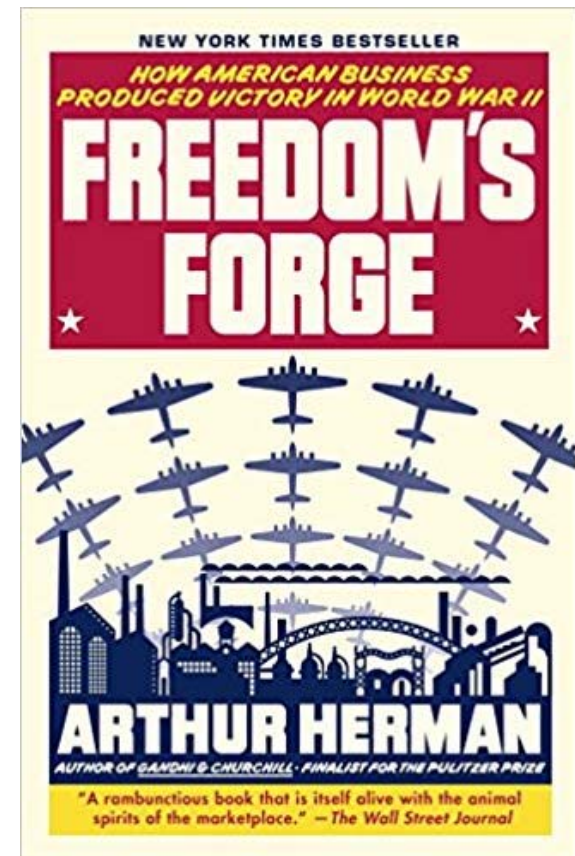


WWI mobilization had been a failure. U.S. munitions late arriving. AEF largely supplied by Europeans.

- National Defense Act of 1920
 - Assistant Secretary of War,
 - Army and Navy Munitions Board,
 - Army Industrial College
- Bevy of bureaucrats: Price Adjustment Board, War Production Board, War Resources Administration, etc, etc.
- Real solution was to throw money at the problem. When banks would not streamline their loan processes, U.S. just paid cash - up front!

Arsenal of Democracy created by Businessmen and Industrialists

- ▶ Henry J. Kaiser
- ▶ "Big Bill" Knudsen
- ▶ Henry Ford
- ▶ Bernard Baruch
- ▶ Ed Stettinius
- ▶ Dollar-a-Year Men
- ▶ Mostly Republicans - appointed by Democrats
- ▶ Done without nationalizing



Henry J Kaiser Was Everywhere!

- ▶ Merchant Ships
- ▶ “Baby Flat Tops”
- ▶ Fighter Aircraft
- ▶ Kaiser Steel
- ▶ Kaiser Aluminum
- ▶ Kaiser Health Plan
- ▶ Prospective U.S. Vice President
- ▶ Cut ship production time from 14 Months to eight weeks
- ▶ Built 747 ships



Even the Spruce Goose!

Liberty Ships, Victory Ships



Liberties

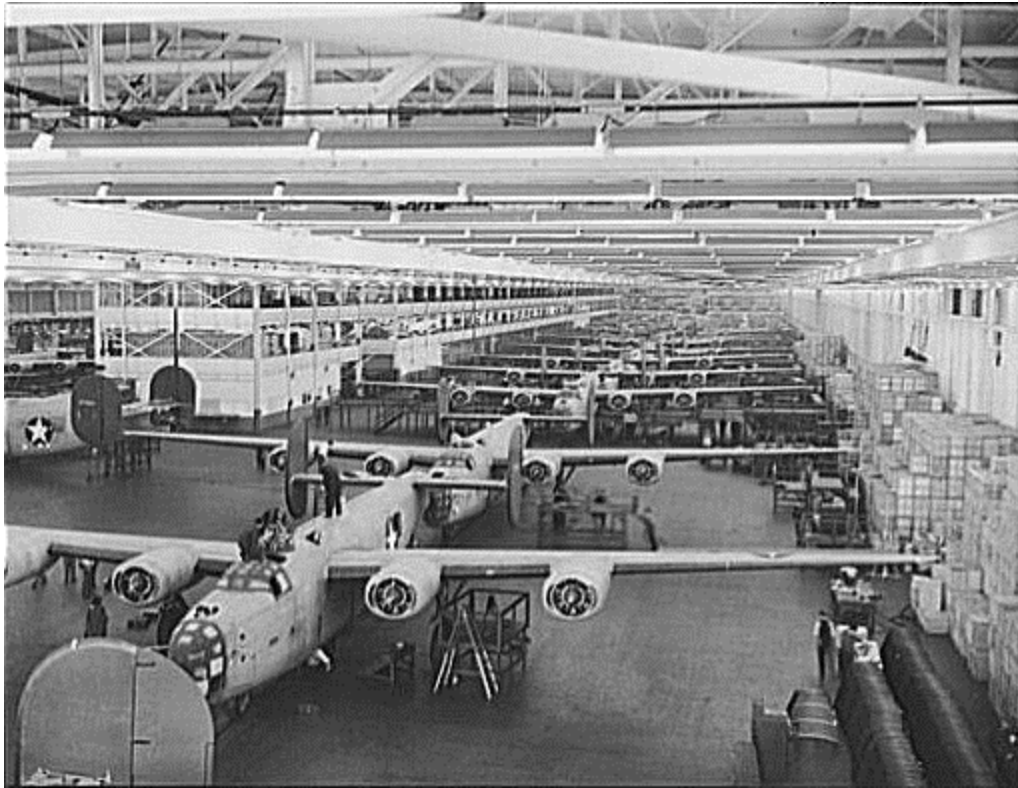
- 11 Kts
- 15,000 tons
- 450 ft
- 42 days to complete
- 488 Built

Victory Ships Came Later

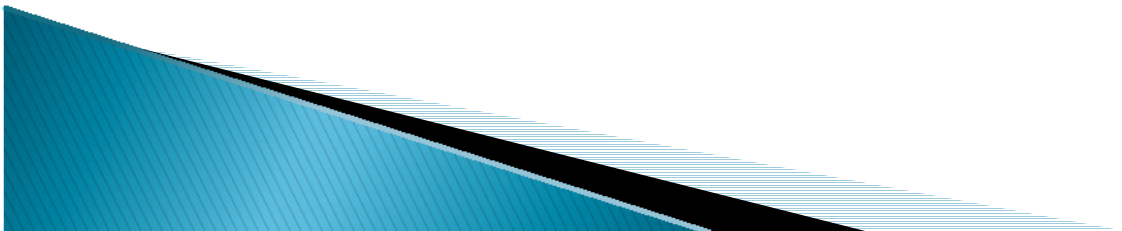
- 16 Kts
- 15,000 tons
- 450 ft
- 531 Built



Willow Run B-24 Assembly

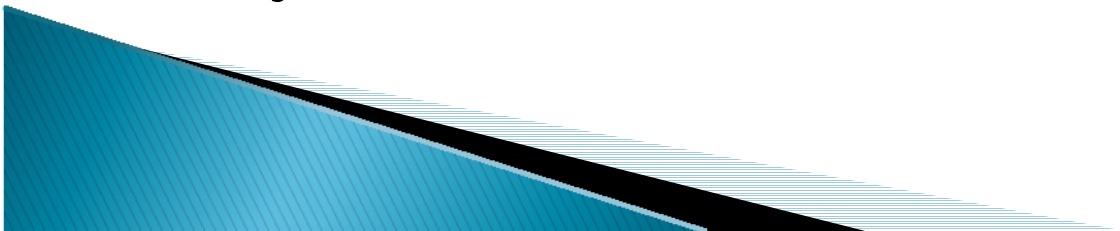


- First Liberator June 1942
- 650 Per month
- 18,500 Built
- Ford produced components
- Douglas Aircraft and Consolidated Aircraft assembled



B-29 Production Revolutionary

- ▶ XB-29 Sep 21, 1942 first test flight
- ▶ 31,000 ft ceiling
- ▶ 5,300 mile range
- ▶ Cruising speed 357 mph
- ▶ Powered by R-3350
- ▶ 1,664 ordered
- ▶ Production effort massive
- ▶ Each acft 40,500 different parts
- ▶ Used multiple sub-assembly lines , 100 sub-contractors
- ▶ Final assembly in Wichita by Boeing
- ▶ More expensive that Manhattan Project



Military Service

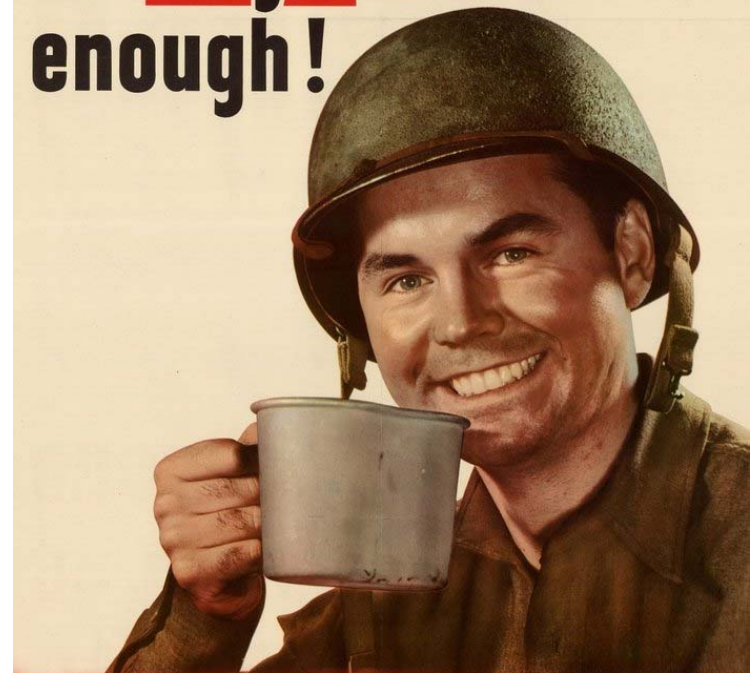
- ▶ Selective Training and Service Act of 16 Sep 1940 required all male citizens between the ages of 21 and 30 to register for draft, serve one year.
 - Later 18-65, duration + 6 mos.
- ▶ Highly controversial!
- ▶ "Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars."
- ▶ Draft extended in 1941 by only one vote in House Of Representatives.



1942 Economy Rationing Begins

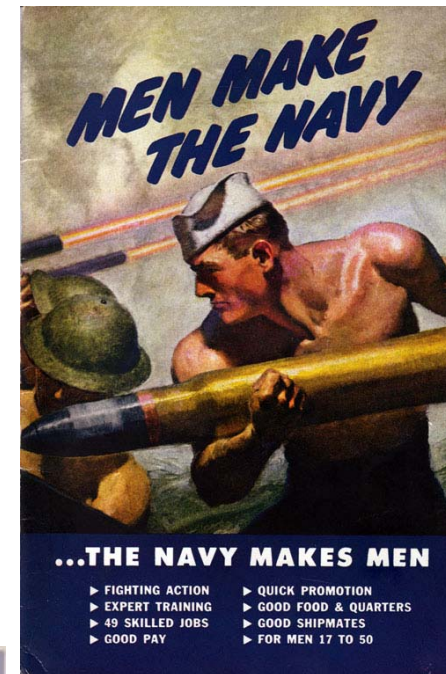
- ▶ Living costs:
 - Waitress earned \$80/month
 - Ham 34 cents/lb
 - Soup 6 cents/can
 - 4 bedrm 2 bath house \$13,000
 - Watch \$29
- ▶ Jan 1 – Auto production ended.
- ▶ Jan 30 – OPA
- ▶ Feb 8 – DST “War Time.”
- ▶ Dec 1 – Rubber products, gasoline rationing begins.

**Do with less—
so they'll have
enough!**



RATIONING GIVES YOU YOUR FAIR SHARE

Enlistment



Total 3,030,407
Enlisted in 1942

Paid:
PVT \$50/month;
married PVT \$78
with \$50 to wife
2nd LT \$150, \$27
with dependents

Women in the Military

- ▶ WAACs – Women's Army Auxiliary Corps
 - 140,000 served
- ▶ Army Nurse Corps
 - 59,000 served
- ▶ WAVES – Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service
 - 86,000 peak strength
- ▶ Navy Nurses Corp
 - About 30,000 served
- ▶ WASPs – 1100 ferry pilots
- ▶ 350,000 total women in uniform
- ▶ All non-combatants



Population Shifts

Mobilization required
manpower at industrial
sites

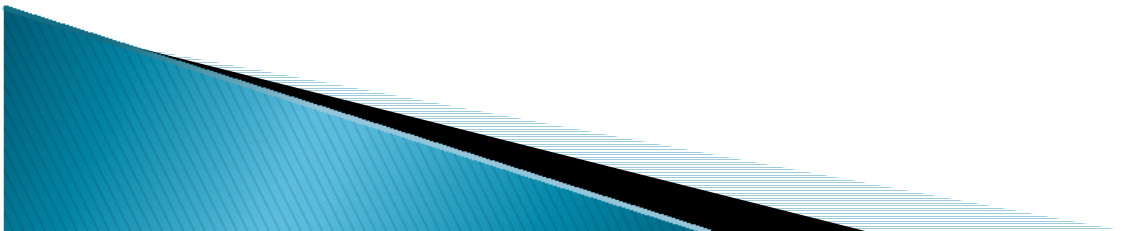
Poor, unemployed moved to
urban centers

More than 1.2 million
Southern black workers
and rural whites migrated
to Western and Northern
cities.

The greatest internal
migration in the nation's
history



Willow Run Temporary Housing:
The Federal Public Housing
Administration

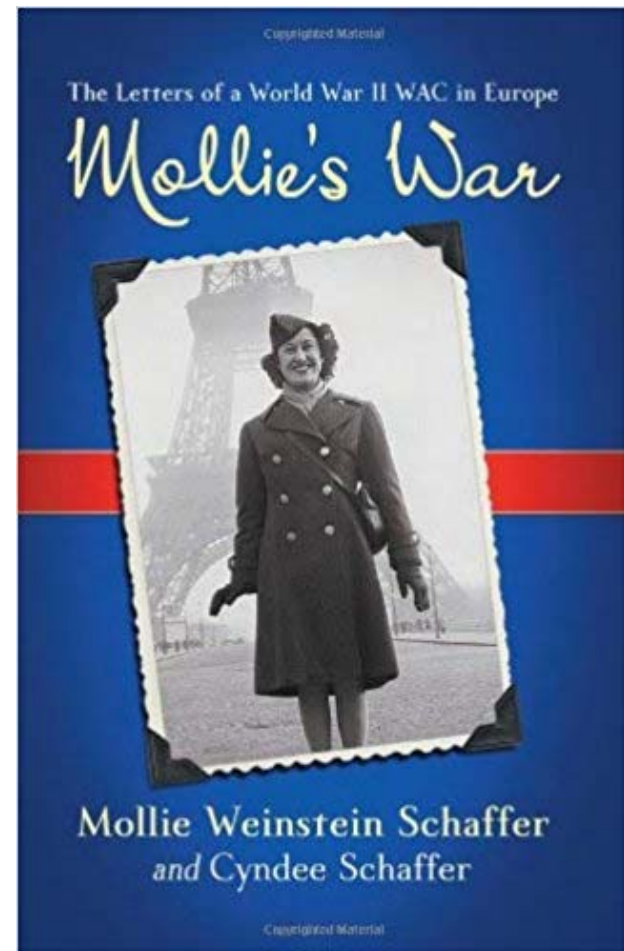


Mollie Weinstein's WWII Letters

A delightful recounting of how a young Jewish girl enlisted in the WACs and met the challenges of biases about:

- Women in the service,
- A Jewess in a Gentile army,
- An onslaught of male attention, and
- Being one of only 20,000 WACs sent overseas.

She did duty in London, Paris, Weisbaden, and Frankfurt.



Gasoline, Tires

- ▶ Gasoline available but rationed to conserve rubber
- ▶ Ration stamps on windshield
 - A – 3 gals per week
 - B = 8 gals per week
 - C = Essential – police, fire, postal
 - ▶ M = Motorcycle
 - ▶ T = Truck
 - ▶ X = Unlimited
- ▶ 35 MPH “Victory Speed”



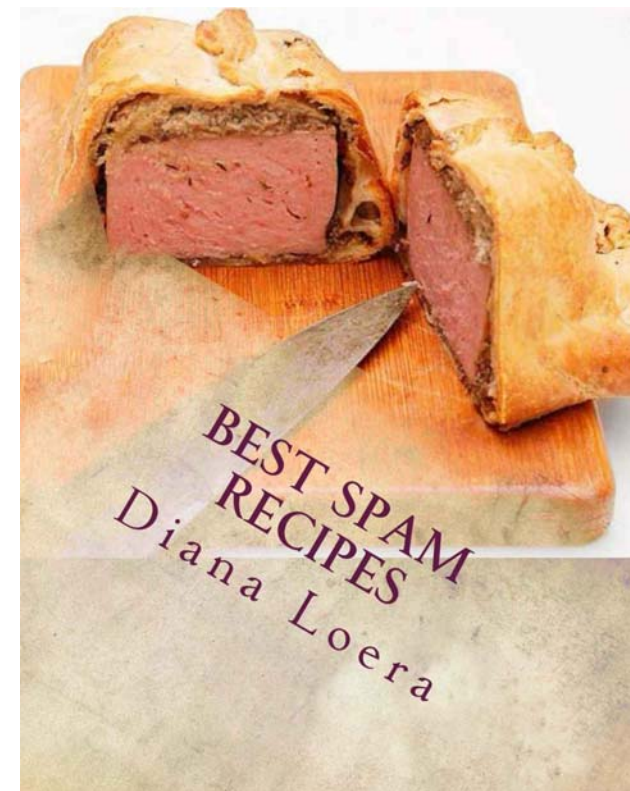
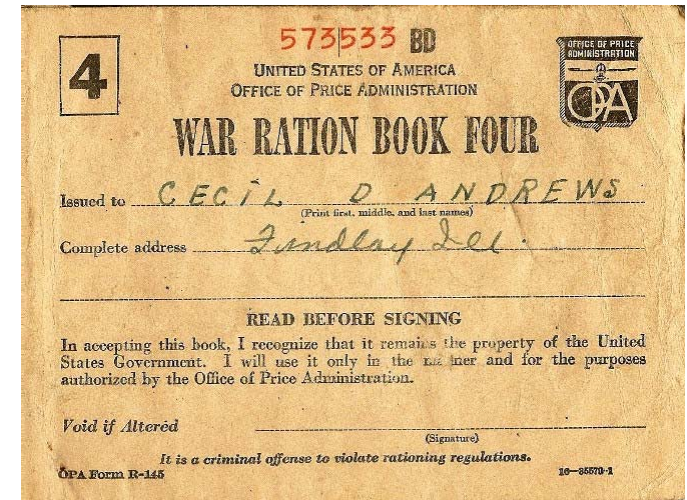
Social Upheaval – 1942

- ▶ War catalyst of social change.
 - Advanced civil rights, economic equality, racial integration.
 - NAACP grows. Fair Employment Practices founded.
 - Broke down cultural/class stereotypes.
 - Ethnic, regional distinctions eased
- ▶ Demonstrated women can do men's jobs.
 - Munitions, ship building, heavy manufacturing
- ▶ Established changes that would never be reversed
 - Women would never fully return to the home.
- ▶ Raised economic expectations
 - Created pent-up demand
 - Expectations of higher wages



Impact at Home

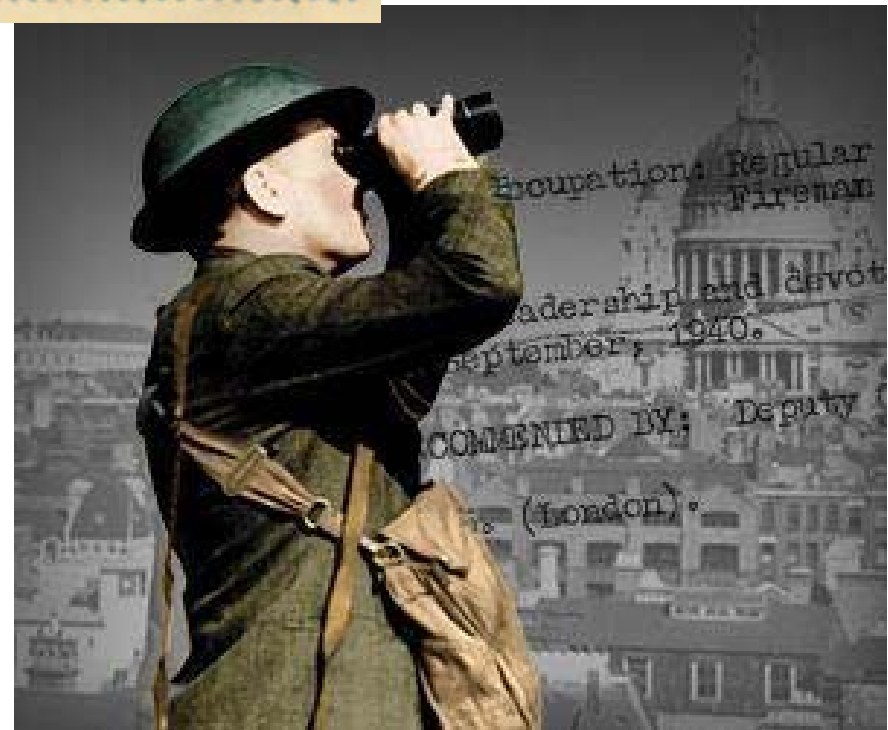
- ▶ Blue points to buy canned, bottled or dried foods
- ▶ Red points to buy meat, fish and dairy
 - ▶ Coffee one pound every five weeks. Tea 2 oz per week. Roll-your-own cigarettes. Kneading oleo in a plastic bag to color it
- ▶ “Meatless Tuesdays” and “Wheatless Wednesdays”
- ▶ Victory Gardens
- ▶ Black Market
- ▶ Wartime menu actually more healthful
 - Less sugar, fat



Civil Defense

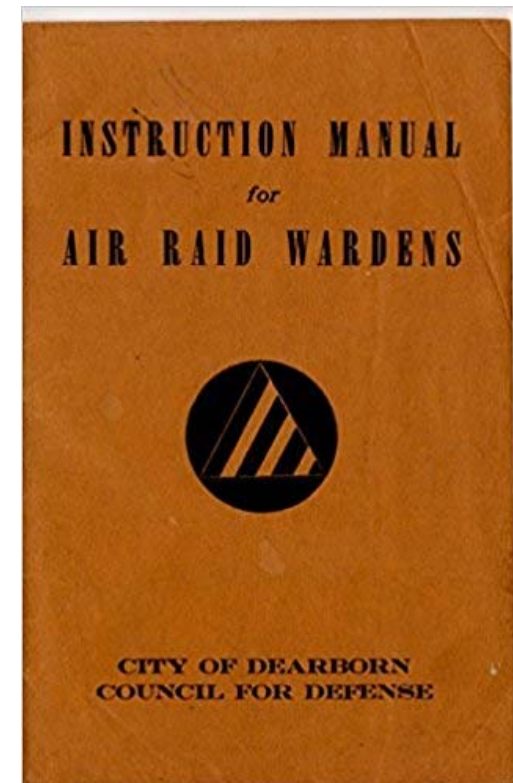
"Every Citizen a Soldier"

- Office of Civil Defense
 - **Civil Air Patrol** – SAR, Coastal Patrol
 - **Ground Observer Corps** – Beach and Sky Watchers. 1.5 million members
 - **Civil Defense Corps** – fight fire, chemical attacks



Air Raid Drills

- ▶ Black outs
 - Heavy curtains
 - External lights
 - Headlight covers
- ▶ School Drills
- ▶ Confusion in public places
 - Restaurant checks
 - Airlocks
- ▶ Air raid wardens
 - Officious? Self-important?



In Sum, 1942 Brought:

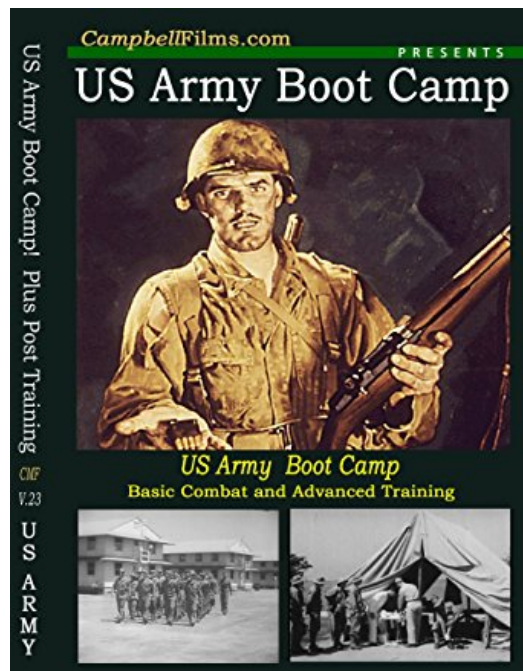
- ▶ Tragedy
 - Wrenching change
 - Disillusion
 - Paranoia and internment
 - Wartime sacrifice
- ▶ Hope
 - Burst of industrial production
 - More civilian casualties than military in 1942
 - Common sacrifice
 - Drawing together
 - Confidence in victory



Women Roles

- ▶ More than 18 million women worked in defense industries
- ▶ Nearly one-third of Richmond Kaiser shipyards 90,000 workforce were women.
- ▶ Child care facilities were developed.
- ▶ Usually not paid equal to men, but better than pre-war jobs.





Military Life: A Mixing Bowl

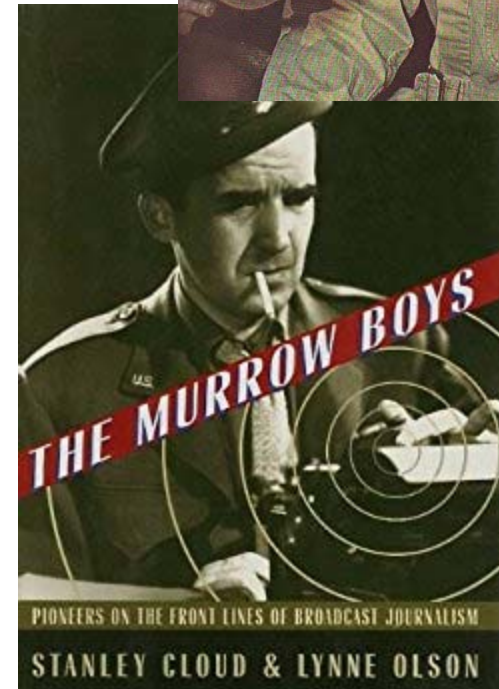
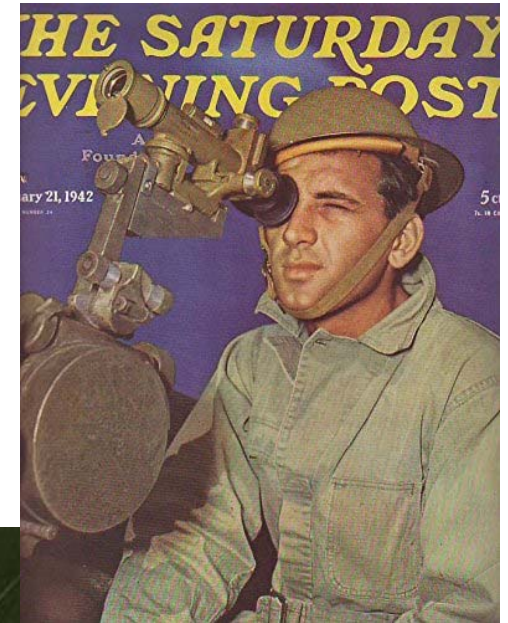


- Accelerated integration in a racist society.
- Broke down social, economic, ethnic, geographic distinctions.
- Built camaraderie, common cause
 - A male rite of passage

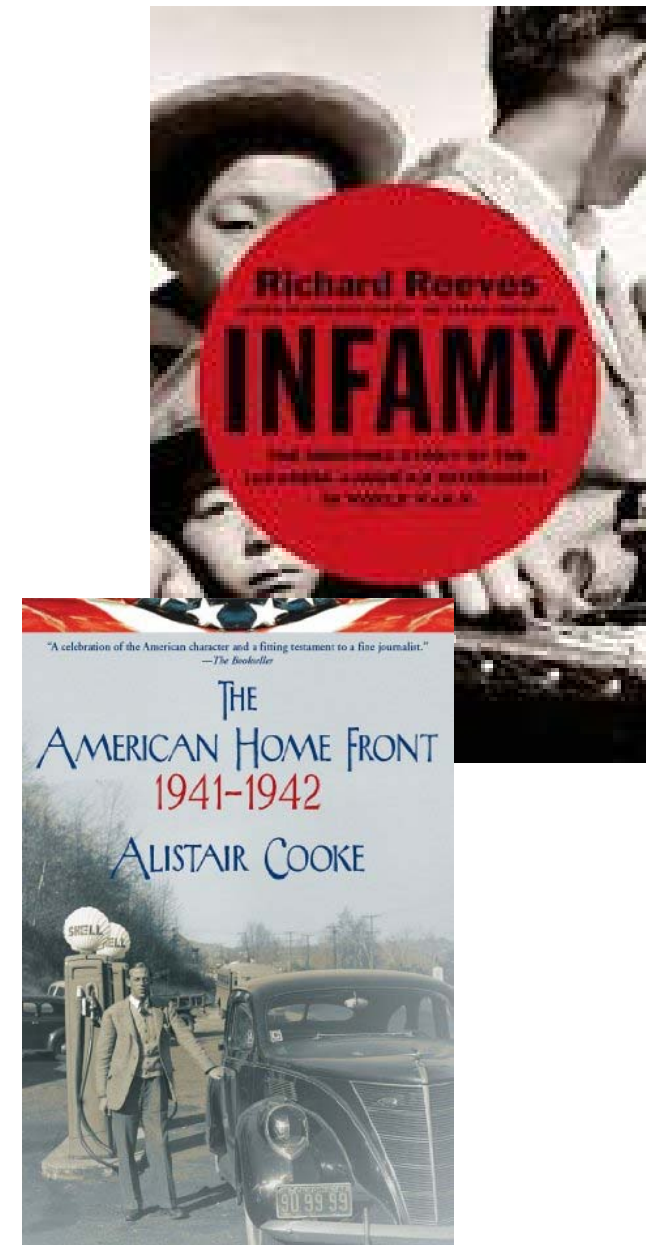
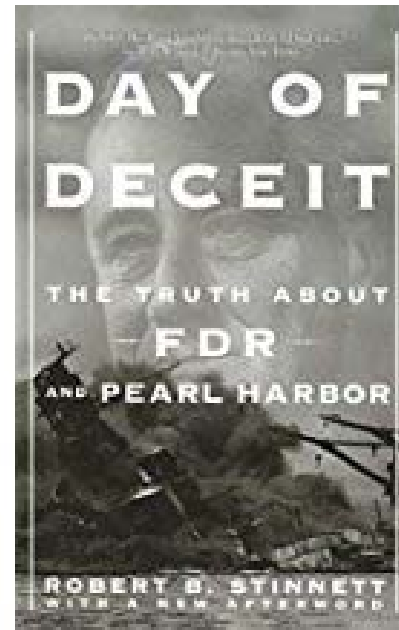
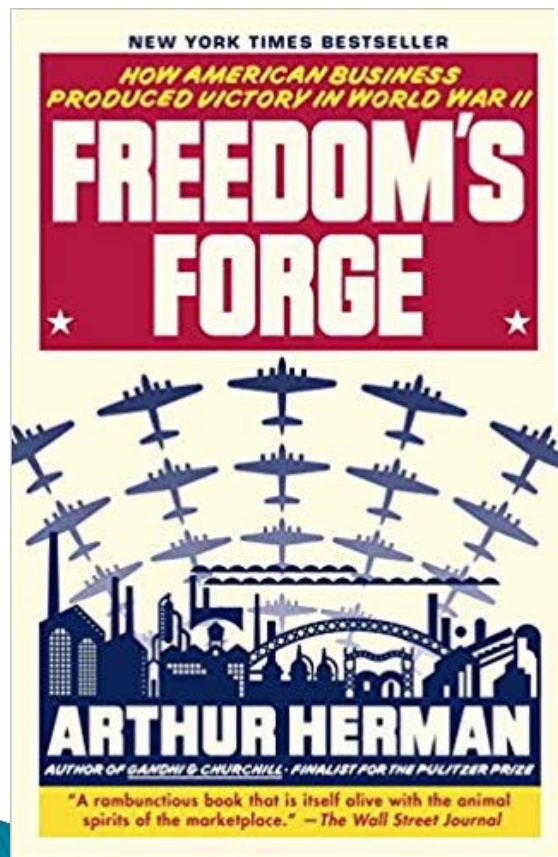


Wartime Popular Culture

- ▶ Print media still principal news source
 - *Life, Time, Saturday Evening Post, Colliers*, three daily editions of newspapers, several papers per city.
- ▶ Music: “Lets Remember Pearl Harbor”
 - Radio: Bing, Bob, the Andrews Sisters, Edward R. Murrow
 - Styles: Hair rolls, zoot suits
- ▶ Movies
 - 14 Cents admission: “Casablanca” plus news reels, cartoons, and a B-feature
 - Popcorn 10 cents
- ▶ Scrap drives
- ▶ Record Church Attendance



Recommended Reading



Questions?
Comments?
Discussion!

