

## HOMEFRONT NOTES

### Shift to Wartime Production:

- Following Pearl Harbor, the American automobile industry converted its factories to produce bombers.
- The government set up the program of **Cost-Plus system**, which said the government would pay all development and production costs plus a percentage of these costs as profit on anything a company make for the war.

### Rationing:

- After the Japanese takeover of rubber plantations in the Far East, there was a shortage of rubber until synthetic methods of making rubber were developed.
- Steel became scarce, as did gasoline, sugar, coffee, leather, meat, and other foods.
- **Office of Price Administration:** regulated the prices charged for everything thing from rent to razor blades, so that rising prices would not interfere with the production of necessary war materials.
- The rationing of gasoline began on December 1, 1942.
  - Americans began to drive less and the OPA banned pleasure driving.
- Ration books were distributed to every man, woman, and child filled with letters, numbered and color-coded coupons or stamps.
- **Mr. Black:** another name for the black market.

### The Role of Women:

- By the end of the war, over 20,000 women had joined the military service. Women operated radios, repaired planes and vehicles, and were assigned to clerical duties.
- Women entered the work forces, many times taking jobs once held by men.
- Eventually over 5,000,000 women worked in factories devoted to wartime production.
- Rosie the Riveter
- The trend of women going to work continued after the war. It changed lifestyles and created a rise in the need for childcare.

### African Americans:

- Nearly 1,000,000 African Americans served in the military during the war, in a military that still practiced segregation.
- Tuskegee Airmen:
- Memberships in civil rights organizations grew rapidly as blacks struggled against discrimination.
- "Double V" Victory: Victory in the war against the Axis powers, and V for victory in the struggle for equality at home.
- Executive Order 8802: Roosevelt signed the order, which opened jobs and job training programs in defense plants to all Americans regardless of race.

### Japanese Americans:

- Due to Pearl Harbor, people feared Japanese Americans.
- **Executive Order 9066:** Roosevelt signed it, establishing military zones for imprisonment of Japanese Americans.
- Over 100,000 Japanese Americans were moved to internment camps. This included citizens and non-citizens.
- Nothing was done to German or Italian Citizens.
- The War Relocation Authority (WRA) was created to move Japanese Americans to Internment camps around the country.
- Many Japanese Americans lost everything, their businesses, homes, and other property.
- Located in Desolate areas.
- The wooden barracks were covered with tarpaper and protected by barbed wire and armed guards.
- The rooms inside only had cots, blankets, and a light bulb. Toilets, bathing, and dining facilities were communal.

- Still, more than 17,000 Japanese Americans served in the Armed forces; approximately 1,200 of these were from relocation camps.
- The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, comprised entirely of Japanese Americans won more medals for bravery than any other unit in United States History.
- 1988- The US government signed a law awarding each surviving Japanese American internees a tax-free payment of \$20,000.
- This still did not cover what had been lost.

Zoot Suit Riots:

- Occurred in Los Angeles
- They occurred between Mexican Americans and US sailors.
- Gangs of sailors would go around looking to attack and humiliate Mexican Americans.