

Military Glossary

Rationing - The method used by the government to make the allotment of food and other provisions be distributed in a fair and efficient system.

Ration Stamps - A limited number of coupons that were distributed to people. These coupons had to be used in order to be able to purchase rationed items.

Points - The “currency” of the rationing system; each rationed item had a value in points.

Conserve - The act of saving. People were required to limit the consumption of many things that were needed for soldiers and the war effort.

Allies - The nations that joined with the United States against the Axis powers during WWII.

Axis - The term used to describe Nazi Germany, militarist Japan, fascist Italy and several smaller countries that followed Hitler’s plan for world conquest during WWII.

Code Talkers - Navaho radiomen serving with American forces in the Pacific region, who used the Navaho language as a secret code because it could not be translated by the Japanese.

Morse Code - The standard telegraph code of dots and dashes developed in the mid-1800s by Samuel F.B. Morse and still used today.

Pearl Harbor - The American naval base at Honolulu, Hawaii, which was attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941.

Victory Garden - Americans were encouraged to grow table vegetables wherever they could find a little space. In 1944, the peak year, this accounted for 40% of the vegetables consumed by Americans.

OPA - Office of Price Administration, in charge of setting policies on rationing and price limits.

Rucksack - a type of backpack soldiers used to carry their supplies.

C-Ration - an individual canned, pre-cooked, and prepared wet ration that the soldiers used during WWII and often during the Vietnam War as well.

Scrapping - collecting and reusing used or old materials to turn into something new; items such as tires, metal, and grease. Today, we would call this recycling.

Rosie the Riveter - a symbol of the six million women who entered the workforce during WWII.

Propaganda - the systematic promotion of ideas and doctrines; as important part of the war effort that introduced figures like "Rosie the Riveter" and "Uncle Sam" to help boost American morale and encourage citizen participation in the war effort on the Home Front.

Recruiting - effort to rebuild the U.S. armed forces by enlisting volunteer soldiers, sailors and Marines.