

1: How American Women Helped Win World War II in the Wake of Pearl Harbor | Observer

During World War II, some , women served in the U.S. Armed Forces, both at home and abroad. They included the Women's Airforce Service Pilots, who on March 10, , were awarded the.

Beyond Rosie the Riveter: For evidence of this, one needs to look no further than the many roles that women have played during wartime. Never was this more apparent than during World War II. From to , more than , women served in the United States military, while over six million flooded the American workforce. Furthermore, countless women—single and married—supported the Allied war effort through activities like civic campaigning and rationing. Many American students are aware that women played a role in the Second World War. Unfortunately this knowledge is often limited only to images of "Rosie the Riveter" and the wives and mothers left to manage households on their own. This lesson is designed to introduce and promote an interest in the many essential roles that women carried out during World War II and how they did so with great success. The driving force of this lesson is a student project entitled "The Faces of War" see both Activity Three and the Extension Activity of this lesson for further details. Objectives Students will build a comprehensive understanding of the many ways that American women contributed to the war effort during World War II. Students will explore and analyze a number of primary and secondary sources as well as multimedia resources. Students will apply the knowledge gained in this lesson to the development of a fictional character they create for an assigned project. Students will enhance their ability to research historical documents and texts throughout the development of their project. Materials Lesson Activities Activity One: Rosie After distributing lyrics of the World War II-era song, "Rosie the Riveter," the teacher should play the song for the students and instruct them to follow along with the words. The following websites will prove extremely helpful: Regardless of whether or not the students can recall the image of Rosie, the teacher should then share an image of Rosie with them. The following websites provide high resolution images of two different versions of Rosie: Once the students have been engaged in the lesson, the teacher should explain that even though the women in the American workforce did have a tremendous impact on World War II, women played many other key roles during the war. In explaining these roles and offering concrete statistics, facts, etc.

2: Japanese American women in military | Densho Encyclopedia

American women in World War II became involved in many tasks they rarely had before; as the war involved global conflict on an unprecedented scale, the absolute urgency of mobilizing the entire population made the expansion of the role of women inevitable. Their services were recruited through a variety of methods, including posters and other print advertising, as well as popular songs.

Comment The soldiers arrived at dusk. They forced their way into the house and tried to drag the two women upstairs. The men pulled them out and threw them onto two beds. The crime the six soldiers ultimately committed took place in March, , shortly before the end of World War II. The girl cried for help: Hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of German women experienced a similar fate at the time. But this case was different. The rapists were soldiers from the United States of America and the crime took place in Spredlingen, a village near the Rhine River in the west. By the end of the war, some 1. But is that image consistent with reality? Reports from the Catholic Archive The work, which came out in German on Monday, takes a closer look at the rape of German women by all four victorious powers at the end of World War II. In particular, though, her views on the behavior of American GIs are likely to raise eyebrows. Gebhardt believes that members of the US military raped as many as , German women by the time West Germany regained sovereignty in , with most of the assaults taking place in the months immediately following the US invasion of Nazi Germany. The author bases her claims in large part on reports kept by Bavarian priests in the summer of The Archbishop of Munich and Freising had asked Catholic clergy to keep records on the allied advance and the Archdiocese published excerpts from its archive a few years ago. They were committed by heavily drunken Americans. The results of this decree are not difficult to imagine. Seventeen girls or women The oldest, a woman of Macho Fantasies The reports led book author Gebhardt to compare the behavior of the US army with the violent excesses perpetrated by the Red Army in the eastern half of the country, where brutality, gang rapes and incidents of looting have dominated the public perception of the Soviet occupation. The historian also believes that similar motives were at work. Just like their Red Army counterparts, the US soldiers, she believes, were horrified by the crimes committed by the Germans, embittered by their pointless and deadly efforts to defend the country to the very end, and furious at the relatively high degree of prosperity in the country. Furthermore, propaganda at the time conveyed the idea that German women were attracted to American GIs, further fueling macho fantasies. In the wake of the torture scandal at Abu Ghraib and other war crimes committed by US soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, many historians are taking a more critical look at the behavior of the American military during the days immediately preceding and following the end of World War II in Germany. Studies in recent years have shed light on incidents involving GIs plundering churches, murdering Italian civilians, killing German prisoners of war and raping women, even as they advanced across France. Despite such findings, the Americans are still considered to have been relatively disciplined compared to the Red Army and the French military -- conventional wisdom that Gebhardt is hoping to challenge. Still, all of the reports compiled by the Catholic Church in Bavaria only add up to a few hundred cases. Furthermore, the clergymen often praised the "very correct and respectable" behavior of the US troops. Their reports make it seem as though sexual abuse committed by the Americans was more the exception than the rule. How, then, did the historian arrive at her shocking figure of , rapes? The total is not the result of deep research in archives across the country. Rather, it is an extrapolation. Gebhardt makes the assumption that 5 percent of the "war children" born to unmarried women in West Germany and West Berlin by the mids were the product of rape. That makes for a total of 1, children of American fathers. Gebhardt further assumes that on average, there are incidents of rape for each birth. The result she arrives at is thus , victims. Such a total, though, hardly seems plausible. Were the number really that high, it is almost certain that there would be more reports on rape in the files of hospitals or health authorities, or that there would be more eyewitness reports. Gebhardt is unable to present such evidence in sufficient quantity. Another estimate, stemming from US criminology professor Robert Lilly, who examined rape cases prosecuted by American military courts, arrived at a number of 11, serious sexual assaults committed by November, -- a disgusting number in its own right.

But Gebhardt is certainly correct on one point: For far too long, historical research has been dominated by the idea that rapes committed by GIs were implausible because German women wanted to jump into bed with them anyway. How, though, is one to interpret the complaint filed by a hotelier in Munich on May 31, ? She reports that US soldiers had commandeered a few rooms and that four women were "running around completely naked" and were "exchanged several times.

3: Book Claims US Soldiers Raped , German Women Post-WWII - SPIEGEL ONLINE

American Women in World War II: On the Home Front and Beyond. American women played important roles during World War II, both at home and in uniform. Not only did they give their sons, husbands, fathers, and brothers to the war effort, they gave their time, energy, and some even gave their lives.

Personal use only; commercial use is strictly prohibited for details see Privacy Policy and Legal Notice. Livingston High School; date: Over three hundred fifty thousand women volunteered for military service, while twenty times as many stepped into civilian jobs, including positions previously closed to them. More than seven million women who had not been wage earners before the war joined eleven million women already in the American work force. Between and , an untold number moved away from their hometowns to take advantage of wartime opportunities, but many more remained in place, organizing home front initiatives to conserve resources, to build morale, to raise funds, and to fill jobs left by men who entered military service. Social mores were tested by the demands of war, allowing women to benefit from the shifts and make alterations of their own. Yet dominant gender norms provided ways to maintain social order amidst fast-paced change, and when some women challenged these norms, they faced harsh criticism. Race, class, sexuality, age, religion, education, and region of birth, among other factors, combined to limit opportunities for some women while expanding them for others. However temporary and unprecedented the wartime crisis, American women would find that their individual and collective experiences from to prevented them from stepping back into a prewar social and economic structure. By stretching and reshaping gender norms and roles, World War II and the women who lived it laid solid foundations for the various civil rights movements that would sweep the United States and grip the American imagination in the second half of the 20th century. In each of these arenas, women exercised initiative, autonomy, circumspection, caution, or discretion according to their individual needs and the dictates of patriotic duty. Wage Work and Opportunity Economic opportunities abounded for women willing and able to seize them. Wage work in war industries offered hourly pay rates much higher than those to which most women had been accustomed, with the best wages paid in munitions plants and the aircraft industry. The WMC also identified one hundred U. The main targets were local married women who already lived in the designated metropolitan areas, including middle-aged and older individuals who had never worked outside their homes or whose experience was limited to domestic work. Madison Avenue advertising agencies designed and produced a variety of propaganda campaigns for the U. Employment Service offices coordinated efforts to place women in jobs best suited to their skills and family needs. Mothers with children under fourteen were encouraged not to seek employment outside their homes unless other family members or trusted neighbors could offer reliable childcare. Several corporations with U. Constance Bowman, a schoolteacher who spent the summer of working in a San Diego B bomber factory, earned 68 cents an hour. Department of Labor sent field representatives to factories throughout the country to scrutinize working conditions. The WB urged factories to adopt rules about head coverings as well as safety shoes and slacks. Such comfort packages would not merely attract employees but also keep them content and more likely to stay after they had been hired. Very few grocery and department store owners chose to accommodate women who needed to do their shopping in the late evening or night hours. They endured racial slurs and physical attacks in factories, and disproportionately filled the lowest-paid and least appealing jobs, including janitorial work. The Fair Employment Practices Committee FEPC “created by Executive Order in to address racial discrimination in industry”lacked the funds to handle the wave of complaints engendered by rapid wartime mobilization. When FEPC cases faced delays, black women searching for work or seeking promotions in their current jobs suffered the most. But women of color, like all American women, found their greatest challenge to be reconciling home life and work life during the war years. Beyond riveting and welding, other tasks required even more hands and minds nationwide. The United States needed farm laborers, telephone operators, laundry workers, food servers, and bus drivers. And while women had filled clerical positions for nearly half a century in the United States, the war accelerated the trend. Women took certain places as men vacated them, with the U. The expanding bureaucratic structure of war was matched by private

sector growth, where American businesses were forced to open their doors and offices to female employees. With the military draft taking its share of male, middle-class clerks and salesmen, openings for women abounded in the consumer economy. Radio stations, insurance firms, and advertising agencies hired more women than ever before. Images circulated of the rich snob who sat at a booth for a few hours a week but remained oblivious to real sacrifice. The AWVS affected every aspect of wartime culture, sending its members to assist military personnel, distribute ration books, sell war bonds, and collect salvage, as well as to recruit blood donors, nurses, farm workers, and child care workers, and to knit, sew, and recondition clothes for military families and relief agencies. Across the country the AWVS made strides in several socially sensitive areas including interracial cooperation. Interracial volunteer activities among women spurred optimism for a more inclusive postwar America while stimulating the growth of similar organizations where women could meet and serve a larger cause. In assisting and entertaining U. Through gender-defined actions and activities, USO volunteers were expected to assume particular mental and emotional postures when dealing with soldiers and sailors. How she presented herself would determine the reactions of soldiers and sailors, she was instructed. Since many USO sites provided games, women played table tennis, checkers, and cards, and often allowed their male opponents to win. In packed trains and buses, often with young children in tow, they made their way cross-country to visit or live near their husbands. But female volunteers in military organizations founded during World War II faced tougher scrutiny than nurses; their womanhood and femininity were questioned by many detractors, even though the idea of national service for women was not new. As early as , First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt had recommended a required service responsibility although not specifically a military duty for all young American women. In addition, because of the expansive mobilization of the military for the war, thousands of new clerical positions emerged in all branches of the armed services and this too inspired calls for female military personnel. Free A Marine to Fight. Even so, the message reinforced gender differencesâ€”women might wear uniforms, march in formation, and be promoted, but only men could face enemy forces at battle sites. Thus, men continued to dominate the most masculine of human activitiesâ€”warfareâ€”which was further masculinized by U. These female aviators also tested new aircraft, hauled cargo, and assisted male pilots in training exercises. Male GIs carried out a smear campaign against the organization. They spread rumors that WAC volunteers served as prostitutes for male soldiers, reinforcing a notion that army life encouraged promiscuity. Some wondered whether incorporating the WAC into the regular army meant that its members wouldâ€”like their male counterpartsâ€”be issued condoms. Would army life encourage sexual activity among female volunteers? These rules of propriety indicated the preeminent role that clothing played in assigning gender and sexual identities during the war. Even the appearance of impropriety could be grounds for dismissal and a dishonorable discharge. The tactics worked; many volunteers admitted joining one organization or another because they liked the uniforms. Their respective training models also bespoke their differences. Bilingual Latinas, for example, were recruited specifically for cryptology and interpretation; a special unit comprised of two hundred Puerto Rican WAC volunteers served at the New York Port of Embarkation and other locations dedicated to the shipment of U. WAC officer Betty Bandel discovered low morale among troops whose expectations about their roles were not met. The army had given them domestic tasks, similar to those they had held in civilian life, or it had failed to utilize the professional expertise they brought with them into service. As one of the first female African American army officers, Charity Adams experienced vicious discrimination at Ft. Des Moines on several occasions. But she spent many hours at Ft. Other women of color in uniform were assaulted at southern railway stations, denied access to facilities and dining cars on trains, and treated with disdain in towns near their bases and well beyond. The pervasiveness of anti-Japanese sentiment adversely affected U. Casual sexual relations among the unmarried startled many Americans, who blamed young womenâ€”especially those who worked outside their homesâ€”for shifting standards. Government propaganda associated the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis and gonorrhea, with women rather than men by casting disease carriers as female. Yet the vast wartime mobilization effort combined with the cultural politics of the early s provided American women a wide berth to express and enjoy sexual intimacy in the name of patriotism. Many who migrated to war boom cities and military installments left behind constraints on sexual behavior that had guided them in

their home communities. Ordinary American women copied these poses in photographs that they sent stateside to military camps and overseas to battlefronts. Early on it was unclear how marriage and parenthood might affect military deferments, leading couples to tie the knot with expectations of securing extra time. In addition, with the wartime draft extending to males between the ages of 18 and 45, the pool of eligible men for marriage had presumably shrunk. By , rising U. Census Bureau survey revealed that more than 2. The following year, the U. Many of these long distance relationships unraveled over the war years, with the high wartime marriage rates resulting in the highest divorce rates in U. These working mothers received limited assistance from federally sponsored childcare facilities that had been authorized under the Lanham Act, an extension of the Depression-era public works projects. Underfunded and concentrated primarily in war boom areas, federal childcare centers served some six hundred thousand children during the war years; yet at their greatest use, they served only 13 percent of children who needed them. The Richmond shipyards in the San Francisco Bay area oversaw approximately fourteen hundred children daily. Joseph for the Office of War Information, Working mothers were forced to make difficult choices during the war years. Some chose second shifts or night shifts, so they could be with their children during the day and work while they were sleeping. Others who worked day shifts were criticized for leaving their children. The cities, towns, and camps attracting them were located on both coasts and everywhere in betweenâ€”Washington, DC, Seattle, Portland, Mobile, Detroit, St. Louis, and numerous other places where the prospects of war work, steady wages, or other opportunities beckoned. Some traveled occasionally to see their sweethearts, sons, and husbands, while others took to the road daily or weekly to punch time clocks in defense factories. Extending and expanding the Great Migration from the rural south to urban, industrial America, black women entered shipyards, ordnance plants, and bomber factories in unprecedented numbers. Industrial growth and military mobilization allowed women to crisscross the nation in trains and buses, but their new mobility caused many Americans a sense of uneasiness and discontent. Women who traveled or lived alone were viewed with suspicion, while those who crowded into teeming defense areas, with or without their families, were often treated with scorn by local residents. They prefer to live in shacks and go barefoot. To use such positions to launch personal independence of any kindâ€”especially financialâ€”could be viewed as selfish or even reckless. Eleanor Sewall, a Lockheed Aircraft employee whose husband was captured on Bataan, was heralded by the company for her decision to contribute 50 percent of her salary in payroll deductions toward war bonds. Sacrifice in the cause of patriotic duty would temper desires forâ€”and achievement ofâ€”personal autonomy. The sixty-six nurses who were captured by the Japanese on Corregidor spent three years in Santo Tomas prison camp in Manila. Besides sharing scarce food and limited supplies with three thousand other American and British prisoners, they shared three showers and five toilets with the five hundred other women there. Prewar gender expectations had been tested and found wanting. The large number of those who developed skills and carried out new work, who put on military uniforms, married quickly, engaged in sexual activity freely, or moved several hundred miles away from homeâ€”or all of theseâ€”did so inside the grander framework of national and global crisis.

4: Category:American women in World War II - Wikipedia

It was all hands on deck as Americans pitched into a second World War effort after the attack on Pearl Harbor in

Although World War II impacted the lives of American women in myriad ways, it also was a significant turning point in that it opened up opportunities for them to serve in the U. American feminists claimed their right to serve in the U. After the United States declared war on Japan, the descendants of Japanese immigrants, including second-generation American citizens, were labeled as "enemy aliens," and those residing on the West Coast were forcefully incarcerated in camps when President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order on February 19. For various reasons, the War Department decided to allow Nisei men to join the military in January. Similar to Nisei men, some of them were motivated to serve in the military in order to show their loyalty to the United States. They were also motivated by reasons that were rooted in their culture and status in their family and community. Nisei women volunteered for the U. I said what I would be doing is replacing all these men to help end the war. I tried to talk with my parents into letting me go, and finally they released me and signed the consent for me to go in. Furthermore, they would be able to gain education and job skills that they could use after their service. Family reactions ranged from total objection to proud acceptance. Reactions of the community were often negative; Nisei service women were portrayed in the media and rumored to be "sexually promiscuous. Experiences of Nisei Women in the Military Military administrators rationalized the idea of accepting women, especially Japanese American women, using gendered and racialized reasoning. The WACs were given assignments that did not transcend the domestic sphere" in other words, the majority of them were engaged in clerical work. In addition, they were expected to emphasize their femininity; many photographs show Nisei WACs smiling with red-rouged lips and wearing uniforms with short skirts. Furthermore, Nisei WACs were not only expected to be American women, but also to retain their linguistic heritage. However, not all of the Nisei WACs had sufficient knowledge of Japanese, and moreover, the Japanese language skills that were needed were not for general conversation, but comprehension of military-related documents. Nevertheless, some of them were trained in the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, in order to be translators because of their Japanese ancestry. And so, when we were sent to Japan, I had an awful hard time working with [Japanese] military terms. Some of the girls from Hawaii used to work as radio announcers in Japanese. They had a lot more training and they could read and write [Japanese] fluently. At Fort Snelling, I was in one of the lowest classes, just learning the basics of Japanese. They were expected to serve as role models as Japanese women who were able to attain American womanhood. In reality, however, most of them were in charge of translations of Japanese military records, and therefore had limited opportunities to interact with local Japanese people. Indeed, the Nisei women made their decisions undaunted by family objections and sexual rumors in the community; they survived severe army training while not losing their femininity; and they were expected to serve as model American women in Japan, yet maintain their Japanese-ness in order to accomplish their assignments as translators. Their stories are invaluable in that they not only add complex and important pages to Japanese American history, but also provide significant insights for both gender and ethnic studies. University of California Press, University of California, Los Angeles, Rutgers University Press, Mina Press Pub, Patriotism in Spite of Prejudice. Black Swan Mill Press, Moore, Serving Our Country: Rutgers University Press, , University of California, Los Angeles, , See Takashi Fujitani, Race for Empire:

5: American Women in World War II (Fall) - Historpedia

Knaff, Donna B. Beyond Rosie the Riveter: Women of World War II in American Popular Graphic Art. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, Find this resource: Google Preview; WorldCat; McEuen, Melissa A. Making War, Making Women: Femininity and Duty on the American Home Front, Athens, GA, and London: University of Georgia Press,

In the minute Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese sunk four battleships and two destroyers, destroyed aircraft, and damaged buildings, ships and airplanes. Such a jolt drove Americans to do something they had not done before. In addition to mobilizing more than 16 million men, they also admitted nearly 1 million women into the services. Among these were nearly 10,000 female codebreakers, whose service paved the way for women in the postwar workforce, spycraft, and politics. Pearl Harbor prepared but for the wrong war. They were ready for a sabotage attack, so the ammunition was locked up, the airplanes were clumped together, and the battleships were grouped together. All this was great for stopping terrorists on the ground but disastrous for defending against aerial attacks. America had deployed the latest technology, and a radar station picked up the enemy aircraft, but it was falsely assumed to be an American squadron of American B bombers, and was therefore dismissed. The cryptologist gave the message to her superior who said he would get back to her on Monday, December 8. Before Pearl Harbor, our army had less than a handful of codebreakers were women who made amazing contributions. By the end of the war, the U. Army had 8,000 codebreakers employed domestically, and another 2,000 in the field, 7,000 of which were female. Navy also had a contingent of codebreakers before World War II. By V-J Day, the U. American codebreakers made their brilliant discoveries with teamwork, careful attention to detail, willing to let someone else take the credit in exchange for getting the job done—all admirable qualities. Their work did more than free up men for combat. They provided a vast amount of intelligence about coastal fortifications in France, Japanese ship movements in the Pacific, and submarines in the Mediterranean. These women helped commanders and soldiers outthink and outfight the enemy. Compare that contribution to our World War II enemies: But the female codebreakers changed all of that. McBride noted that the war was creating unprecedented opportunities for highly educated women: But a lot of it was from male co-workers who discovered that women could be riveters, and codebreakers, and postwar political, military and economic leaders as well. Another example is Elizebeth Smith Friedman, who found success not only in cracking enemy codes, but also by breaking the secret messages of organized crime during peacetime, as well as busting domestic spy rings during the war. In fact, a key National Security Agency building is named after her and her husband, her teammate in the codebreaking effort. He can be reached at jtures@lagrange.edu. His Twitter account is JohnTures2.

6: American women and World War II (article) | Khan Academy

Women's lives changed during World War II. The war expanded some horizons but was the source of gender-based violence in other cases.

Here are just a few of the stories of these women whose valor, whose loyalty to their country, and whose courage under fire showed forth their patriotism. Yes, they did not fight on the battle lines as the men did, but, they still made a major impact in their dedicated service in WWI II. Black American women also fought to serve in the war effort as nurses. Despite early protests that black nurses treating white soldiers would not be appropriate, the War Department relented, and the first group of Black American nurses in the Army Nurse Corps arrived in England in 1945. James, of the battalion area is on duty at the gate. Harriet Ida Pickens and Ensign Frances Wills, the first African-American Nurses to be commissioned. December 21, 1945, Gant tends a patient at a prisoner-of war hospital somewhere in England. Many of you may know of the valiant courage under fire that was exemplified by the Black men of the Tuskegee Airmen fame, but, how many of you know of Ms. Janet Harmon Waterford Bragg? She was one of the few Black women pilots who became a pilot through the Tuskegee Airmen pilot program. Bragg was also denied her licence by the first examiner because as he put it, he had never given a Black woman a licence to fly, and he was not going to start doing it then. Bragg later went on to receive her licence from another instructor. One was Willa Brown, the other Janet Bragg. Born Janet Harmon in Griffin, Georgia on March 24, 1918, she gained her interest in aviation while still in her formative years. One day in Chicago, she saw a billboard across the street with a drawing of a bird building a nest with chicks inside. The caption on the billboard read: A registered nurse who received her degree and training from Spellman College and MacBicar Hospital, both Black institutions respectively, Bragg enrolled at Curtis Wright School of Aeronautics in 1941. Despite constant harassment by fellow students, she completed her course work and helped build an airport and hangar in Robbins, Illinois. Like many African Americans during a time of rigid segregation, Bragg continued to meet opposition in her pursuit of a career in commercial and military aviation. Undaunted, she flew to Tuskegee,. However, the white examiner denied her this right after she landed from her trial flight. Bragg continued to fly as a hobby and encouraged others to pursue careers in aviation, even after being denied entry into the military nurse corps because the quota for Black nurses was filled. Janet Harmon Waterford Bragg retired from flying in 1947 and retired as a nurse seven years later. A resident of Tucson, Arizona for several years, she died in Chicago in April of 1987. Aviation buffs, students and historians may want to visit the Pima Air Museum for a visual display of her life or read a copy of an interview conducted by the Arizona Historical Society, both located in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, an autobiography on her life is being written through the Smithsonian Institute Press. The White face of Rosie the Riveter is well-known, but, as seen here , the Rosies came in many racial groups. But, there were many Black women who helped in the production of armaments for the war. Many Black women left the menial life of domestic servitude to earn better salaries, provide for their families, and help the men fighting overseas in Europe, North Africa and Asia. Office of War Information. She was one of hundreds of African-American women trained at the center. The tradition of Betsy Ross is being kept alive in this quartermaster corps depot where this young woman worker assists in the creation of American flags for military activities. Women welders at the Landers, Frary, and Clark plant. Battle of the Bulge. So many battles that still wear a whiteface. That they fought two enemies overseas, and back in America - is a true testament to their courage and bravery. Patriotism has no color.

7: Women, Gender, and World War II - Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History

Minority women, like minority men, served in the war effort as well, though the Navy did not allow black women into its ranks until As the American military was still segregated for the majority of World War II, African American women served in black-only units.

The intelligence field was in its infancy. At the time there was little prestige in the work; the battlefield was where heroes were born. Those who worked behind the scenes could say little about their accomplishments. And the work was seen as secretarial in some ways, Mundy notes. In the weeks leading up to this fateful day, there was a sense of impending danger, but exactly where and when that assault would take place remained a mystery. Just days before the attack, the Japanese changed up part of their coding system. The codebreakers scrambled to crack the new intercepts—but it was too late. But the loss emphasized the growing need for enemy intelligence. And with an increasing number of men being shipped out overseas, the government turned to an abundant resource that, due to sexist stereotypes of the day, were assumed to excel at such "boring" tasks as code breaking: The Army and Navy plucked up potential recruits from across the country, many of whom were or planned to become school teachers—one of the few viable careers for educated women at the time. Sworn to secrecy, these women left their loved ones under the pretense of doing secretarial work. Unlike the men, women code breakers initially signed onto the Army and Navy as civilians. Despite these injustices, they began arriving in Washington D. Exactly how many of these women contributed to wartime intelligence remains unknown but there were at least 10, women codebreakers that served—and "surely more," Mundy adds. They served a number of roles, including operators of the complex code-breaking computers known as the Bombe machines, which deciphered the German Enigma intercepts. While the American codebreakers did assist the Allies in Europe, the majority of their work focused on the Pacific theater. And though it was repetitive, the job was far from easy. There were endless numbers of code and cipher systems—often layered to provide maximum confusion. Codebreaking entails days of starting at strings of nonsensical combinations of letters, seeking patterns in the alphabetical chaos. Over the years, the teams learned tricks to crack into the messages, like looking for the coded refrain "begin message here," which sometimes marked the start of a scrambled message. The key was to discover these "points of entry," which the code breakers could then tug at, unraveling the rest of the message like a sweater. The British had already abandoned the seemingly impossible task. But the work was not all smooth sailing. Shoved in crowded office buildings in the heat of the summer, the job was physically demanding. It was also emotionally draining. Many cracked under the pressure—both women and men. The women also had to constantly work against public fears of their independence. As the number of military women expanded, rumors spread that they were "prostitutes in uniform," and were just there to "service the men," Mundy says. In the final days of war, the intelligence community was supplying information on more Japanese supply ships than the military could sink. However, without the devoted coterie of American women school teachers reading and breaking codes day after day, the deadly battle may well have continued to drag on much longer. Such diversity was common during the war:

8: How the American Women Codebreakers of WWII Helped Win the War | History | Smithsonian

During World War II, approximately , U.S. women served with the armed forces and more than - some sources say the figure is closer to - lost their lives as a result of the war, including 16 from enemy fire.

As the war went on, women began to take on new jobs and do whatever they could to help out the war effort, which included everything from flying planes, to serving as nurses, to volunteering their time, and to using limited resources sparingly. Women in the Military When the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred, there were only 8, women nurses, but before the war ended, the Army Nurse Corps and the Navy Nurse Corps included 59, and 11, nurses, respectively. Women served as nurses at home and abroad in order to help heal wounded soldiers. Nurses were strong women who put up with tough living situations and went through survival training. Prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, women were only able to hold nursing jobs in the military. Over , women served in the military with a huge variety of positions; women lost their lives and 88 were prisoners of war. In the beginning, women only held certain jobs that did not require physical strength and that were deemed appropriate for women. However, as the war went on, visions changed as women took on more jobs. Eventually, women held jobs in every area other than direct combat. These women had to pay for their basic flight training, and then they volunteered their time in the Air Force. Women were able to transport supplies from the factories, and they even flew fighter planes from the factories to where they were needed for the war. Women also tested planes and broke in engines; all of these efforts saved thousands of men from being pilots, so that the men could fight in direct combat. These women did not even have military status, so they did not get any benefits or official recognition for their efforts; women pilots were only recognized as civilians, and it was not until that women in the United States Air Force received military status. Uniforms were used in propaganda to show people that women really were making a difference in the war efforts. She was a strong woman who urged women to join the workforce for war efforts, and she appeared in numerous advertising techniques such as newspapers, movies, and posters. When men left to fight in the war, propaganda urged women to step up and take their place. Many women held clerical jobs, and the amount of women working in government grew. It became acceptable for women to hold these jobs; however, this was only acceptable during the national emergency. By the end of the war, women held over one-third of the government jobs, but the men were to get their jobs back when they returned from war. After the war, some women were happy to be done working long, strenuous hours. However, other women were upset when they were forced to give up their jobs to the men who came back from war, and some women even protested. Some women felt betrayed after working overtime with specific companies for years and then losing their jobs and not having a way to provide for their families. There was a variety of work to be done in other factories as well in order to produce supplies needed for the war. Women worked in the factories to make parachutes, uniforms, and boots; and women worked six days per week and overtime in order to keep the factories operating. The factories that produced war goods paid higher wages, which attracted many women. With such a high number of women working, it was often a struggle to find available housing, especially for the women who worked in munitions factories in rural areas. Besides working in factories, women were involved in critical jobs in transportation, communications, and science. Women worked for the railroads, drove taxis, delivered mail, drove trucks, conducted radio broadcasts, and wrote journal articles. For the women who were qualified, during World War II, there were jobs available in research, engineering, and chemistry, which were not available to women prior to World War II. Some women participated in research for nuclear weapons and other technologies, which included women who worked on the Manhattan Project to construct the atomic bomb. Some of the women who worked as scientists even volunteered their time. New scientific courses were offered at universities across the country, and women were now allowed to take these classes too. World War II was the beginning of opportunity for women in science. Women volunteered to drive ambulances, put out fires, and provide other emergency medical care; women were also trained for what to do in case they were bombed. The civilian defense initiatives also had women on the lookout for enemies. Supplies needed for the war became scarce, and many food items and other products were rationed. Meat, sugar, coffee, cheese, butter, clothing, nylon,

silk, shoes, and gasoline were all just a few of the items that were rationed. Women were forced to come up with alternative recipes in order to accommodate the available ingredients, and they were also urged to recycle products such as metal and paper. Women were also encouraged to grow their own victory gardens in order to produce and can their own vegetables. An estimated number of 19 million women took part in these demands on the home front in order to save food and materials to be used for the war. People were encouraged to invest in war bonds, which was encouraged by women volunteers. Women asked people to invest ten percent of their earnings into war bonds. When more jobs were created, women filled those positions, and women continued working after the war. After the war, it became normal for women to work; teenage girls worked too. On top of working, women also had to be strong mentally as their husbands, sons, and fathers went away to fight in the war. At first, women did not respond well to their need to work, so that is when propaganda began. Girls who had just graduated from high school joined the work force as well. Mothers with children and adolescents were encouraged to stay at home; however, eventually, mothers with young children were forced to work as well. Women gained confidence and satisfaction through working, and they saved their money that they earned during the war, which was used to buy homes for their families after the war ended. Prior to World War II, married women stayed home with their children to take care of them and the house, and women who worked outside of the home were only allowed to hold certain jobs that were considered to be suitable for women, which included jobs such as nurses and teachers. They took the jobs that men vacated after they left to go fight in the war, and qualified women were also allowed to take rigorous science and mathematics courses at colleges and universities across the nation. Educated women took jobs in science and research, which was a new area for women to work in. Many women volunteered their time as well. Teenage girls saw their mothers and other women working during the war, which led them to believe that it was normal and common for women to work, and a lot of girls in that generation ended up working outside the home once they were older and had completed school. Another history force that is not as obvious as personal identity, but is still relevant, is politics and government. In order to help win World War II and end it sooner, women worked extremely hard and made many sacrifices. From working in factories, volunteering for various organizations, serving in the military, to using materials sparingly, women did whatever they could to help the war effort. Women filled positions that freed men from their jobs and enabled them to fight in the war for their country. Besides directly helping the war effort, women benefitted from helping out in World War II because after the war ended, society changed its views on what jobs were considered to be suitable for women, and women had more opportunities. After the war ended, many women remained in the work force and their numbers continued to grow in later years. The women who worked during World War II led the way forward for the modern working women of today. Retrieved November 25, , from [http: Partners in Winning the War: Women in World War II. Washington State Historical Society. American Women at War.](http://Partners in Winning the War: Women in World War II. Washington State Historical Society. American Women at War.)

9: American women in World War II - Wikipedia

World War II wasn't just fought on the battlefield. On the homefront, everyday Americans joined the war effort. They planted victory gardens, organized scrap metal drives, bought war bonds, and.

Female factory workers in , Long Beach, California. Nineteen million American women filled out the home front labor force, not only as "Rosie the Riveters" in war factory jobs, but in transportation, agricultural, and office work of every variety. Women joined the federal government in massive numbers during World War II. Nearly a million "government girls" were recruited for war work. In addition, women volunteers aided the war effort by planting victory gardens , canning produce, selling war bonds , donating blood, salvaging needed commodities and sending care packages. By the end of World War I, twenty-four percent of workers in aviation plants, mainly located along the coasts of the United States were women, and yet this percentage was easily surpassed by the beginning of World War II. Since men that usually did certain jobs were out at war, women tried to replace them. For example, the pop culture phenomenon of " Rosie the Riveter " made riveting one of the most widely known jobs. Experts speculate women were so successful at riveting because it so closely resembled sewing assembling and seaming together a garment. As Glenn Martin , a co-founder of Martin Marietta , told a reporter: And yet many others, maybe more adventurous, chose to run massive hydraulic presses that cut metal parts while others used cranes to move bulky plane parts from one end of the factory to the other. They even had women inspectors to ensure any necessary adjustments were made before the planes were flown out to war often by female pilots. The majority of the planes they built were either large bombers or small fighters. Olivia Hooker , D. Recognized as an official part of the regular army, more than , women served as WACs during the war with thousands were sent to the European and Pacific theaters. In , the th Central Postal Directory Battalion the only all African-American, all-female battalion during World War II worked in England and France, making them the first black female battalion to travel overseas. Commanded by Major Early, the battalion was composed of 30 officers and enlisted women. Enlisted basic training was segregated for living, dining and training, but while living quarters remained segregated at officer training and specialist schools, dining and training facilities there were integrated. Other WAC translators were assigned jobs helping the U. Air WACs served in a large variety of jobs, including aerial photo interpretation, air traffic control, and weather forecasting. The first female officer of the United States Marine Corps was also commissioned that year with the first female detachment of marines sent to duty in Hawaii in American women also took part in assuming the defense of the home front. Apart from the number of women who served in the federal military, a number of women joined the various state guards , organized by individual U. In September , the Idaho State Guard became the first state-level military organization in the United States to induct women into its command structure when Governor Chase A. Clark administered the oath of enlistment to a group of women from the Idaho volunteer auxiliary reserves. Although most were kept far from combat, 67 were captured by the Japanese in the Philippines in and were held as POWs for over two and a half years. Another, an Army flight nurse who had been aboard an aircraft that was shot down behind enemy lines in Germany in , was held as a POW for four months. Five were captured by the Japanese on the island of Guam and held as POWs for five months before being exchanged. A second group of eleven were captured in the Philippines and held for 37 months. During the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, some Filipino-American women smuggled food and medicine to American prisoners of war POWs and carried information on Japanese deployments to Filipino and American forces working to sabotage the Japanese Army. Before the war was over, 84, WAVES filled shore billets in a large variety of jobs in communications, intelligence, supply, medicine, and administration. Margaret Craighill became the first female doctor to become a commissioned officer in the United States Army Medical Corps. Public Health Service established the Cadet Nurse Corps which trained some , women for possible military service. Eight percent ultimately provided nursing care in American hospitals. The first warship named for a woman to take part in combat operation, it was named after Lenah S. Higbee , Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps from until German American internment , Italian American internment , and Japanese American internment But many others

were excluded from war-support efforts. Roughly , Japanese-Americans and resident Japanese aliens on the West Coast were relocated to Manzanar , Heart Mountain and similar internment camps while at least 10, German citizens were held at more than 50 sites across the United States and Hawaii. By , , Italian nationals residing in the United States had also been classified as "enemy aliens" with roughly 1, detained by the Department of Justice under the Alien and Sedition Act. Partial timeline[edit] Naval Reserve Act permitted the enlistment of qualified women as nurses. The name of the U. Public Law granted full military rank to members of the U. Navy Nurse Corps , who were then all women.

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