

# **World War II**

## **Discovery Box and Guidebook Index**

(Updated January 2010)

### **Introduction**

### **Index/Contents**

Discovery Box Guidebook Index  
Discovery Box Contents and Descriptions with Pictures

### **Information**

#### **Secondary Sources**

Notable People, Places, and Events of the World War II Era  
World War II Historical Outline  
World War II Vocabulary  
World War II Era Background  
The World of Rationing During World War II  
The Home Front During World War II

#### **Primary Sources**

Flyer: "What You Must Do to Qualify for Gasoline and Tires"  
Flyer: "This is Why Your Mileage is Rationed"  
Flyer: "The Need For Rationing"  
Excerpt from Sears Roebuck catalog about how to buy rationed shoes from Sears: "Yes, You Can Buy Rationed Shoes from Sears by Mail"  
Excerpts from 1943 Sears Roebuck catalog: "Information About Rationing of Farm Equipment"  
Excerpts from 1942 Sears Roebuck catalog: "Ordering Rationed Farm Equipment"  
Excerpt from Sears Roebuck catalog: "Save Implements by Repairing: They're badly needed for 1943" Copy, "Family Allowances for the Dependents of Soldiers"  
1944 newspaper articles about German POWs in Northwest Arkansas:  
    "Labor Problem Aided by German War Prisoners," August 10, 1944 with transcript  
    "Personnel Changes at German War Prison Camp," August 17, 1944 with transcript  
    "Prison Labor Necessary says Welch Head," November 16, 1944 with transcript  
Excerpts from *Christmas Communiqué from the Basement of Old Main*  
Proclamation from Springdale's Mayor W.G. Howard (June 26, 1942)  
Excerpts from *Soldier's Handbook* on proper gas mask wear and field equipment care  
"Blackout Accessories for the Home"  
Ad from *Northwest Arkansas Times* about the better quality of American food  
Model Food Market advertisement from *Springdale News* May 6, 1941  
Letter sent to veterans by the Veterans Administration  
Remodeling Garments into Victory Clothes  
Flyer Civilian Exclusion Order No. 5, for the removal of all persons of Japanese Ancestry from the city of San Francisco.

## Activities

World War II word search with key

World War II Unit:

World War II PowerPoint CD

**Axis and Allies** for 6<sup>th</sup> grade framework **H.6.8.10**: Locate countries who were part of World War II

**America on the Homefront** for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade framework H.6.6.20: Examine the social changes caused by World War II, and the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade frameworks **WWP.9.AH7-8.1** (Arkansas History): Identify the contribution of Arkansans during WWII and **WWP.9.AH.7-8.2** (Arkansas History): Describe Social and economic effects of WWII in Arkansas

**US Decisions and Major Events** for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade frameworks **H.6.6.18**: Examine the events and political decisions that led to US involvement in WWII and **H.6.6.19**: Research the major events and decisions made by the US during the course of WWII

**Battle on Turning Points** for the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade framework **H.6.8.26**: Examine Certain battles as turning points of World War II

World War II: Allied and Axis Powers Lesson Plan. Look for rolled, laminated maps in box, and map pieces in manila envelope.

World War II: Rationing Lesson Plan.

World War II: Battles and Turning Points Lesson Plan. Look for rolled, laminated maps in box.

## Historical Document

Copy of leaflet dropped on U.S. soldiers by Japanese Army about how to surrender

Flyer dropped by Japanese on Allied troops

P.O.W. Booklet

Unused V-mail paper

Telegram to Grandmaw from Walter at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri with transcript

Letter to Mrs. James Langford with transcript

Sugar Purchase Certificate

## Photographs

1. Verdun
2. You! Are now entering Germany- Don't Fraternize!
3. 4 Men in front of scrap truck
4. Tin for Uncle Sam's war production
5. Chris Manuel and Others
6. National Guard in Camouflage
7. First Draftees
8. 4 men on a boat
9. Surrender flags abound
10. Men surround tank
11. Man receives bronze star
12. Ladies in the WPA
13. Soldiers at home
14. Captain Deane
15. Family Photo
16. Man "at home"

## **World War II Discovery Box Artifact Guide**

**1. U.S. Navy Flat Hat:** The flat hat first became an official part of the Navy uniform during the Civil War. It is sometimes called the “Donald Duck”. The hats originally had the name of the person’s ship on a ribbon, which was later replaced with “US Navy”. The flat hat was decommissioned as regulation wear in 1962 because of the introduction of the new white hat, and there was no need for each sailor to have two hats.



**2. U.S. Navy Life Jacket:** This type of life jacket is often referred to as a “Mae West” jacket. The manufacture date on this particular life jacket was July 9, 1945. This life jacket was designed to be inflated at the time of use, and contains neoprene, which is a synthetic rubber substance used for its ability to insulate against many environments, including water. When the neoprene is injected with nitrogen, the life vest will float. To use this life jacket, simply place your head through the hole and wrap the strap around your body. Clip the strap in place using the other hook and metal ring, and pull the tab at the bottom to release the nitrogen which will inflate the vest.



**3. U.S. Navy Winter Pants:** The name “Stanawski” is faintly written on the hem of the pants and the name “Landin” is written on the inside of both pockets. The buttons on the front of the pants have the navy emblem, the fouled anchor, embossed on them. The large opening in the front is called the broadfall, which allowed for a larger, more comfortable pant. The 13 buttons were designed to close the enlarged front opening. There is also a 14<sup>th</sup> button, called the stealth button that provides extra support for the wearer of the pants. The flared legs are thought to have been designed to allow sailors to roll up the hem when doing deck work, and to remove them easily should they fall overboard. The pants were made of material which could shrink easily, so sailors would wear larger sizes than normal.



**4. U.S. Army Service Hat:** This hat was part of the non-combat uniform. The hat was worn when wearing the service coat. In 1941, it was officially replaced by the Garrison Cap for soldiers to wear while in uniform, which is the folded cap most often associated with military uniforms. However, this service hat continued to be worn when a more sophisticated look was called for, and was most often worn by officers.



**5. U.S. Army Ties (2):** Ties such as these were most often worn with the formal coat and hat. In combat, ties would have gotten in the way, so they were not part of the standard uniform.



**6. U.S. Army Pants:** The color of the Army issue pant was known as green olive drab and was part of the winter uniform of an army soldier. Summer pants were khaki, and you could tell an enlisted man’s trousers from an officer’s usually by the look. An officer could afford to have his pants tailored to better fit his body, and their dress pants were often called “pinks” because of the color.



**8. Driver's Manual of the U.S. Army:** This manual covers basic operating techniques and safe driving standards for all drivers in the Army. In the back few pages, there is a sample of how a driver should complete an accident log.



**9. Military Receipt for Delivery of Gasoline:** During World War II, many things were rationed because it was the only way to make sure that everyone got their fair share. With gas being rationed for military purposes, buying gasoline fell under the 'differential coupon rationing' system, where shares of a single item were given out. This receipt shows that someone was going to travel in their vehicle for military reasons, and got five gallons to do that.



**10. Pocket Reference Guide of U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps Insignia:** This quick insignia reference guide was a supplement to the March 1943 Reader's Digest. Included in this reference guide are examples of all the military service's insignia so that civilians could quickly identify a person's branch and rank when they met them. For some reason, the Bronze Star is not included in this booklet.



**11. Enlisted Man's Temporary Pass:** While serving in the armed forces, servicemen (privates especially) had to account for their whereabouts at all times. They had to have special permission to leave the military base. This pass was issued to Private L. C. Gibson who was stationed at Camp Wolters, Texas. It gave him permission to go to Dallas for 2 days in August, 1945.



**12. Calling Card of Captain William Rader Rogers:** Like business cards, these personalized cards were used for introductions. Calling cards were similar to today's business cards.



**13. Ration Books and Holder Belonging to the Rogers Family (4):** As with all other U.S. citizens, residents of Northwest Arkansas experienced the war mostly through the rationing of items needed for the war effort. To buy rationed items, people had to collect 'stamps' that added up to a certain value. Once this value was obtained, they would take the stamps and their ration book to the store and purchase that item. Each family member got their own book, and could use them to buy items for either themselves or for other members of their immediate family. This ration book set also includes a mileage reimbursement with coupons. When people drove, they had a certain amount of miles they could drive.



**14. War Bonds Stamp Album and Holder:** War bonds were a type of loan provided to the United States government by its citizens. Even school children participated in purchasing bonds. Children could buy one "stamp" at a rate of twenty-five cents per stamp until they had saved enough for a twenty-five dollar war bond.



**15. Lady's Change Purse with Red Tokens:** Red tokens were used as "change" for meat coupons, while blue tokens were used for canned goods. The coins were designed to be a uniform size, unbreakable, unbending, and color fast to stand up to water and sweat.



**16. Shoe Purchase Certificate:** When items were purchased using the War Rationing Book and stamps, the person would receive a certificate as proof of the purchase of a rationed item.



**17. "Recipes to Stretch Your Sugar Ration":** Because sugar was one of the many items that were being rationed, people had to find other ways to make their food sweet. These recipes called for natural sweeteners like cocoa, honey, and applesauce. Today, many people still substitute sugar in recipes with these items.



**18. Service Flag with Four Blue Stars:** The service flag was designed to be an indoor display piece. It hung on a wood rod and had gold tassels dangling from the flag. The number of stars on the flag indicated how many men from a particular family were serving in the military. Gold stars indicated family member who had died in service. The colors of the flag are meant to coincide with the colors of the American flag: red was for valor and blood spilled by Americans for freedom, blue was for justice and vigilance, and the white was for purity and freedom. This flag has 4 stars, indicating that 4 family members were serving their country during World War II.



**19. U.S. Army Pillow Cover from Camp Callan, California:** If rationing was the greatest daily reminder of the war for local residents, their greatest sacrifice was sending loved ones off to fight. The poem on this cover would be given to a serviceman to remind him of those at home who loved and supported him. There is an open seam at the bottom of the cover for inserting a pillow.



**20. Lady's Hat:** Women's fashions during WWII were greatly inspired by the tailored uniform look. Smaller hats also reflected shortages in material needed for the war effort. The start of World War II signaled the end of the Great Depression. Because of this, many citizens across the United States were okay with rationing because they were still used to 'doing without' from the Depression.



**21. Japanese Money:** This particular bill is from the Philippines. When the Japanese invaded a country, one thing they would do is outlaw the nation's currency. After the Japanese empire was overthrown by Western Powers, the money was considered valueless and nicknamed "Mickey Mouse Money". Because of this, most of it was burned by Philipinos.



**22. Commemorative WWII Spotter Cards (2):** These cards were designed to help pilots, soldiers, and civilians learn the difference between friendly aircraft and those of the enemy.



**23. “The War Bride’s Cooking”:** During an era of rationing, people had to learn how to cook with more than the usual ingredients. This cookbook has recipes on how to cook animal livers, brains, and hearts.



**24. *The Herald and Democrat* from August 21, 1940:** This newspaper was published in Siloam Springs. While people in Arkansas may have been far removed from the fighting (the United States had not entered the war yet), newspaper articles covered what was going on around the nation and the world. The headlines cover everything from sports scores to statewide elections to the crisis in Germany.



**25. *The Spectator* from February 25, 1941:** This newspaper, published in Ozark (Franklin County) has no mention of the war on the front page. Inside the paper is news concerning the war.



**26. *Southwest American* from December 8, 1941:** “Japan at War With United States” is the headline of this paper, published the day after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. The small article on the right side of the newspaper gives details about the number of people killed as well as the United State’s immediate reaction to the attack.



**27. *The Springdale News* from December 11, 1941:** The headline from this newspaper, “War Declared on Germany and Italy” describes how long it took the United States to officially enter into World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Note at the bottom of the right hand column the reference to “World War No. 2.”



**28. *University of Arkansas News* from April 1944:** Printed in Fayetteville (Washington County), the *University of Arkansas News* was the campus newspaper. Articles cover a variety of topics including the number of former students who died or became missing while fighting in Europe.



**29. *Northwest Arkansas Times* from March 20, 1945:** While reading this newspaper, you can really feel the excitement of the war’s progress. The front cover is completely taken up with news about the war.



30. **Northwest Arkansas Times from May 7, 1945:** “German’s Give Up” is front page headline with the news of an Allied Victory in Europe. The cover has news ranging from the happiness of some to have the fighting end to a small article on the anti-climatic ending of the war for some of the soldiers fighting in Europe.



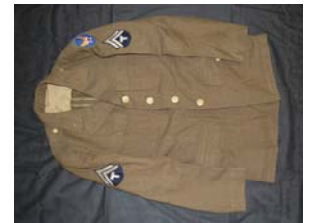
31. **American Kids in History: World War II Days By David C. King:** A book filled with activities, projects, and even recipes that that show students how children entertained themselves during the stressful time of war.



### 32. Booklets for Rationing Lesson Plan



33. **U.S. Army Air Force Jacket:** The Army Air Force came into being on June 20, 1941, six months before Pearl Harbor. Prior to that it was known as the Army Air Corps and was not a big part of the Armed Forces. As war in Europe became more heated and the possibility of U.S. involvement became stronger, the Secretary of War and Army Chief saw the need for a larger, better equipped and better trained Army Aviation unit. This jacket has the insignia of the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force, sometimes known as the 13<sup>th</sup> ‘Jungle’ Air Force. The 13<sup>th</sup> was based in the South Pacific Theater. The rank insignia shows that the owner of the jacket was a Signal Technician.



34. **U.S. Army Air Force Shirt:** This is a basic issue Army shirt made of wool. The insignia on the shoulders show that the owner was a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force and was a Signal Technician.



35. **War Department Basic Field Manual Soldier’s Handbook (1942):** This handbook was issued to new members of the Army as a general guide to Army life. It covers many different subjects from taking care of weaponry to the importance of hygiene and surviving in the field. Different branches of the military had their own versions.

