



# WAR!

## U.S. DECLARES WAR

Immediate Action Follows Japanese Attack On Hawaii

The Lead Daily Call

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR

LEAD S. D. MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941

ASSOCIATED PRESS SERVICE

Germany And Italy Not Mentioned in Congress' Declaration On Japan

S.D. Airports Are Ordered Guarded

World War II started in 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in December 1941, America joined the fight. More than 16 million Americans served in the armed forces and more than 400,000 died in action. Industry geared up to meet military needs. Farms increased production. Workers moved to the cities for war work. Children collected scrap. The war touched everyone.

### THE DAILY ARGUS-LEADER

"SOUTH DAKOTA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER"

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1940

Sioux Falls Guards To Leave Thursday



"Take good care of yourself;" and "Don't forget to write," the last minute pleas of relatives and sweethearts who won't see members of the 147 Field Artillery for possibly a year, flew thick and fast in this crowd gathered at the Milwaukee passenger train station today. Most of the guardsmen left by special train, which pulled away from the station here at 10:07 a.m.



South Dakota State College students (l to r) Peggy Scothorn, Warren Berg, Jean Anderson, Bruce Stoner, Julius Eneboe, and Earl Bormann gathered in Brookings to hear the latest war news, ca. 1942.



Photograph courtesy of South Dakota State University Archives, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD



# JOINING UP

During World War II, 11 percent of South Dakotans served in the armed forces. They fought in the South Pacific, North Africa, and Europe. More than 1,700 died in battle. About 1,250 South Dakota women served in noncombat roles. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, 2,000 members of the Sioux tribe enlisted.



Women had to be at least 20 years old to enlist in the WAVES, the women's division of the U.S. Naval Reserve. Jo Ann Kositzky of Winner (left) signed up the day after her 20th birthday. She later used the GI Bill to attend the University of South Dakota.



Civilian WASPs flew transport planes, B-29 bombers, and fighter planes. Loes Monk Mackenzie was the only South Dakotan to serve in the program.

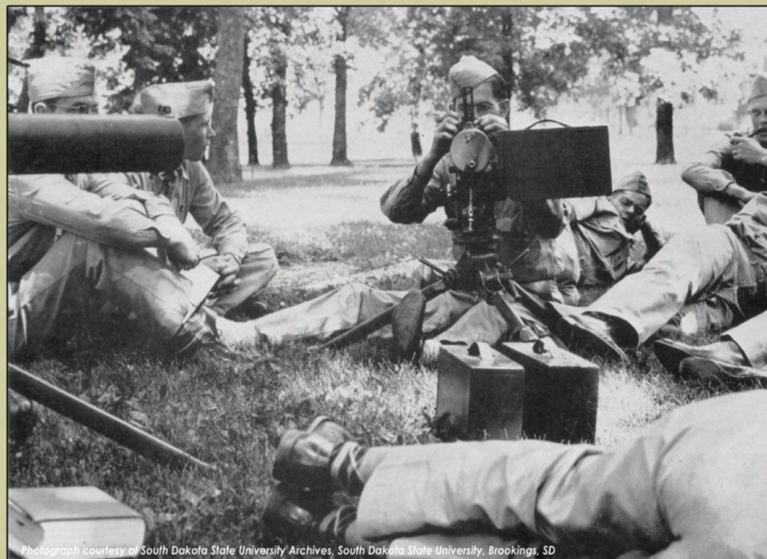


At South Dakota State College in Brookings, 175 students, faculty members, and employees, including college president Lyman Jackson, registered for the draft on February 16, 1942.

More than 196,000 South Dakotans registered with Selective Service between 1940 and 1945. On the Indian reservations, registration was almost 100 percent. South Dakota was exempted from the first drafts because more than 2,000 residents were already on active duty.



ROTC cadet Bud Patterson adjusted the sights on a machine gun during weapons training at South Dakota State College, Brookings, 1943.



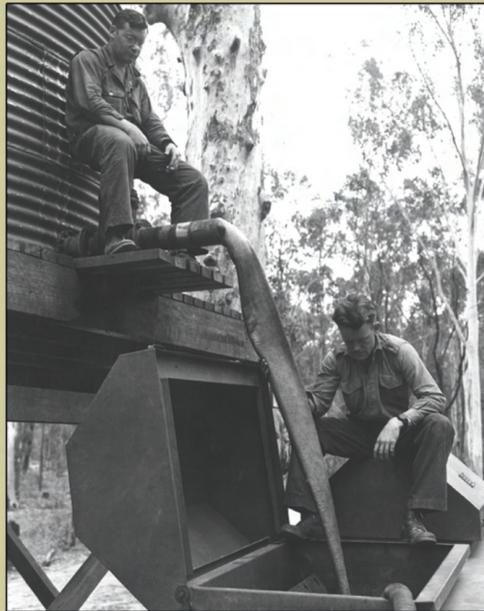
# IN BATTLE

## The 147th Field Artillery Regiment

Called to active duty in November 1940, the 147th Field Artillery Regiment of the South Dakota Army National Guard included men from Aberdeen, Pierre, Mitchell, Flandreau, Sioux Falls, Parker, Yankton, and Vermillion. After Pearl Harbor, the regiment shipped to Australia. It island-hopped across the South Pacific, preparing to invade Japan. The 147th occupied Japan after it surrendered in 1945.



The 147th left Pearl Harbor on November 30, 1941, for an unknown destination. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, the 147th went to Darwin, Australia.



147th Field Artillery PFCs Alvin J. Gednalske and John E. Grafing, both of Flandreau, refilled a water trailer in Queensland, Australia, 1942.



The 147th conducted a flag-raising ceremony in Darwin, Australia, ca. 1942.



This 48-star American flag was the first to fly at Camp Rushmore, Northern Territory, Australia, 1942. Four 147th members died while serving in Australia. Their names are written on this flag—Pvt. Joe L. Cox, Capt. Gerald M. Porter, Capt. Thomas J. Rozum, and Maj. Donald M. Haon.



147th Field Artillery member Alfred Liechti photographed a convoy as it passed through war-torn Manila on the way to the front lines of Luzon, Philippines, 1945.

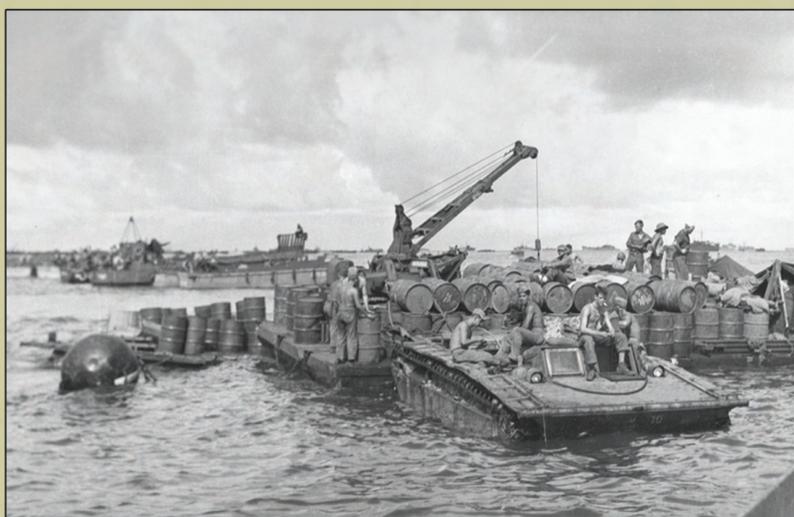


The 147th on the deck of a Tank Landing Ship en route to New Guinea on their first combat mission, 1944.

# IN BATTLE

## 132nd Engineer Combat Battalion

The 132nd Engineer Combat Battalion formed with a core group from the 109th Engineer Battalion, a South Dakota National Guard unit. Fewer than 200 men made up the 132nd, about two-thirds from the state. The 132nd served stateside in the Eastern Defense Command, defending major East Coast cities. It later served in the Pacific, seeing action in Guam, the Philippines, and Okinawa.



*The 132nd Engineer Combat Battalion landed supplies on Guam, July 25, 1944.*



*The 132nd Engineer Combat Battalion delivered supplies on Leyte, Philippines, October 22, 1944.*

## 34th Division

In February 1941, the 109th Engineers, the 109th Quartermaster Regiment, and the 34th Signal Company—all South Dakota National Guard units—joined the 34th Division. These units saw action in North Africa, Italy, Corsica, France, and Germany.



*The 109th Engineers built bridges, roads, field barricades, barbed-wire entanglements, and minefields during their service in Europe. Here, two vehicles forded the Savenna River, Italy, in 1945. The 109th put up nine wood-trestle bridges across this river.*



*Capt. L. W. Houle, Minneapolis; Pvt. Ernest Rose, Redfield; and Sgt. George Sefeik, Minneapolis, watched the shelling of Mount Troccio, Italy, in 1944. Most South Dakotans served in units other than the 147th, 132nd, and 34th.*

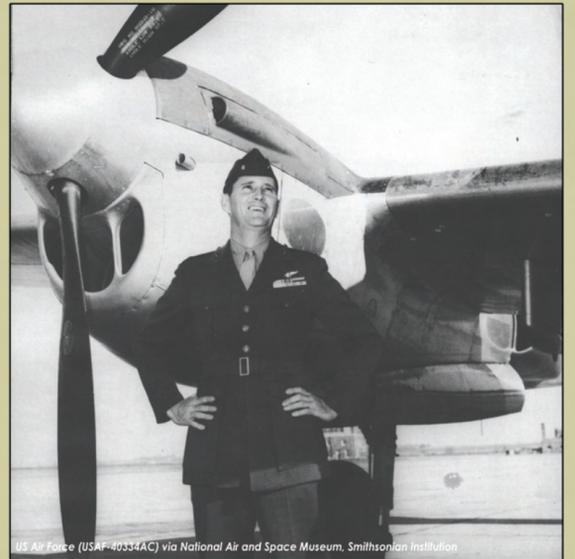


# WITH HONOR

More than 6,000 South Dakotans were awarded medals for heroism during the war, and many received more than one commendation. Three South Dakotans earned the Congressional Medal of Honor.



*Maj. Joe Foss received the Congressional Medal of Honor for shooting down 26 Japanese aircraft in the Pacific. After the war, Foss was elected governor of the state. Other Congressional Medal of Honor recipients were Capt. Arlo L. Larson and 1st Lt. William Bianchi.*



US Air Force (USAF-49334AC) via National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution



*Awarded the Navy Cross posthumously, Lt. Comdr. John C. Waldron (standing, third from left) of Fort Pierre played a key role at the Battle of Midway. Waldron led the 15 bombers of Torpedo Squadron 8 in an attack on the Japanese carrier fleet. All 15 planes went down, with only one survivor. The suicide mission delayed the fleet long enough for American dive bombers to arrive.*

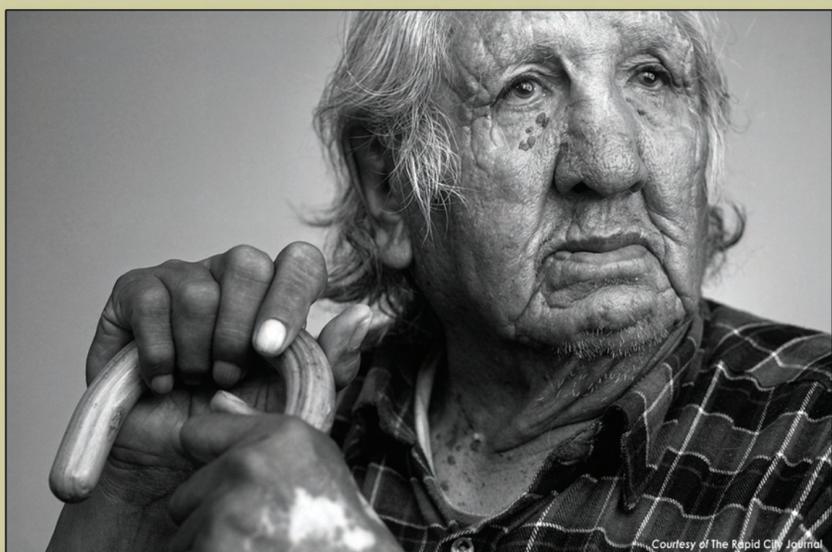


*1st Lt. Marie L. Weaver of St. Lawrence received the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in the Philippines on August 14, 1945.*

## Code Talkers

Eleven Sioux soldiers from South Dakota served as "Code Talkers," top-secret radio operators. In secret messages, they replaced military words with words from their native languages. This code remained unbroken. In 2002, they were awarded Congressional Gold Medals, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress.

Honored were:  
Eddie Eagle Boy  
Phillip "Stoney" LeBlanc  
Simon Brokenleg  
Iver Crow Eagle Sr.  
Charles Whitepipe Sr.  
Edmund St. John  
Walter C. John  
John Bear King  
Baptiste Pumpkinseed  
Clarence Wolfguts  
Guy Rondell



*Oglala Lakota Code Talker Clarence Wolfguts of Pine Ridge, 2004. Code Talkers did not talk about their work until years after the war because it was classified top secret.*

# USS SOUTH DAKOTA

The *USS South Dakota*, one of the fiercest battleships in the navy, was called "Battleship X." It had no identifying marks, and carried secret new arms. The most decorated ship of World War II, it earned 13 battle stars. The *South Dakota* was one of the few ships to serve on both the Pacific and Atlantic fronts.



A Japanese plane attacked the USS South Dakota during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, October 26, 1942. The navy credited the battleship crew with shooting down 26 enemy planes during the battle.

The USS South Dakota sank three enemy ships, shot down 64 planes, and served in nine bombardments. It received the Navy Unit Commendation for turning back Japanese advances in the Solomon Islands. Here the battleship's 16-inch guns bombarded Japan in July 1945.



At \$52.8 million, the USS South Dakota was one of the most expensive ships in the fleet. The 35,000-ton ship was 680 feet long, 108 feet wide, and had 18-inch armor. It could move at speeds up to 27 knots. The ship cruised the Atlantic in 1943.

Sold for scrap in 1962, the ship's bells, mainmast, and anchor became part of the Battleship South Dakota Memorial in Sioux Falls in 1969.



USS South Dakota anchored off Iceland, 1943.



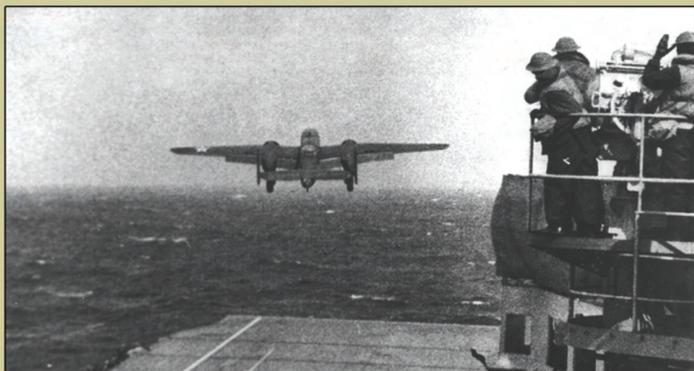
# RAIDS

## Doolittle Raid

On April 18, 1942, Lt. Col. James Doolittle attacked Japan using 16 B-25B bombers. It was the first time bombers took off from an aircraft carrier. The planes could not carry enough fuel for the return trip so the crews bailed out over China. Two South Dakotans, Lts. Donald Smith of Belle Fourche and Henry Potter of Pierre, participated in the mission. Smith crash-landed, evaded capture by the Japanese, and later died serving in Europe. Potter bailed safely, survived service in Europe, and became a career soldier.



*The Doolittle Raid was the first attack on Japanese cities. Although it did little damage, it boosted American morale.*



*A B-25B bomber took off from the deck of the USS Hornet at the start of the Doolittle Raid.*

*Flight Crew 1 of Doolittle's Raiders (l to r): Lt. Henry A. Potter, navigator; Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, pilot and mission commander; S.Sgt. Fred A. Braemer, bombardier; Lt. Richard E. Cole, copilot; and S.Sgt. Paul J. Leonard, flight engineer and gunner.*



Courtesy of the National Archives, photo no. 342-FH-3A03002-94600

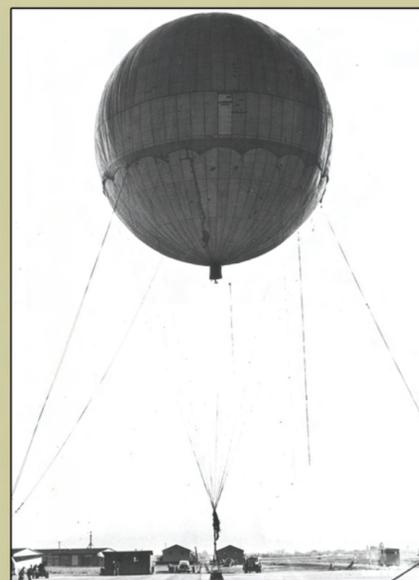
## Japanese Balloon Bombs

In the 1930s, the Japanese studied attacking enemy countries with armed balloons. Following the Doolittle Raid, the Japanese launched more than 6,000 balloon bombs toward the United States. Only about 300 of the bombs reached North America. In South Dakota, one bomb exploded north of Custer. Balloon fragments were also found near Buffalo, Kadoka, Marcus, Wolsey, Red Elm, and Madison.

*Japanese balloon bombs traveled up to 60 mph on the jet-stream winds and reached the American coast in four or five days. This one landed near Ree Heights and is now displayed at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.*



*The hydrogen-filled balloons were 33 feet in diameter. They carried multiple explosives and sandbags. Cool night air triggered the release of the sandbags and kept the balloon aloft at 30,000 feet. Once the final sandbag was released, the explosives would drop.*



# SERVICE READY

## South Dakota Military Facilities

The war effort needed hundreds of military bases, including several in South Dakota. The Rapid City Army Air Base, built in 1942, trained B-17 Flying Fortress crews. Thousands of pilots, gunners, navigators, and radio operators trained there.



*Civil Air Patrol cadet Charlotte Schmitz practiced on the carbine firing range at Rapid City Air Force Base, ca. 1942.*



*The depot included 802 igloo-shaped buildings scattered over nearly 30 square miles.*



*High-school teachers inspected large bombs from the Black Hills Ordnance Depot.*

## Igloo Ordnance Depot

South of Edgemont stood the Black Hills Ordnance Depot. Also called the Provo or Igloo Ordnance Depot, the igloo-shaped buildings held bombs, ammunition, and related equipment. Depot workers lived in their own community complete with schools, a hospital, sports facilities, a theater, and cafes.

## Civil Defense

Civilians organized to protect their communities in case of attack. Neighborhood air-raid wardens scanned the skies for enemy aircraft. On December 14, 1942, nine states held blackout drills. Air-raid sirens signaled residents to turn off their lights and wait for the all clear. The Pierre newspaper reported no casualties or fires—only the raiding of sugar bowls in an Aberdeen cafe. The Rosebud Agency created National Defense Committees to mobilize its resources.

*Billboards reminded locals of home defense in Aberdeen, 1942.*



South Dakota is prepared for an unannounced blackout now, civilian defense officials said today after what they termed a "remarkable success" the initial practice of a simulated air attack in this and eight other states comprising the seventh service command.

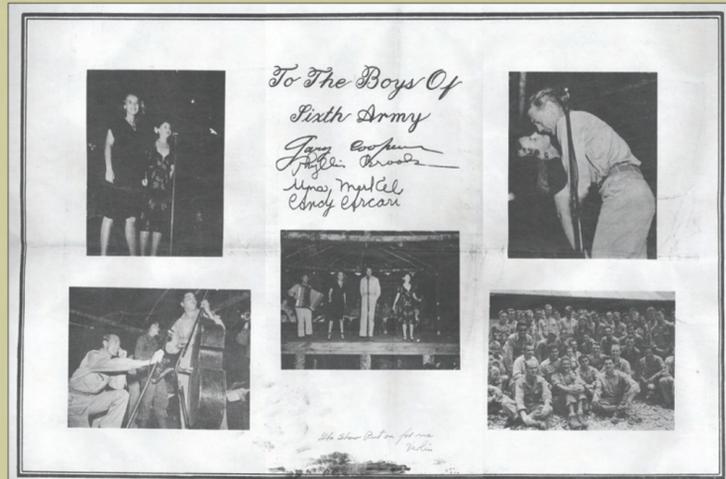
Cooperation of the public generally was better than 99 percent,

*Excerpt from Daily Capitol Journal, December 15, 1952.*

# U.S.O.

## USOs

The United Service Organization (USO) was founded in 1941 to provide recreational facilities for U.S. troops. Operated by volunteers, USO centers offered refreshments, entertainment, and relaxation. Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre, Mitchell, Watertown, Sturgis, Edgemont, Brookings, and Vermillion all had USO centers.



Hollywood stars entertained troops at USO shows around the world. Gary Cooper and others performed for the Sixth Army in the South Pacific. Verlin Sherburn of Flandreau sent this program home to his mother.



Volunteers threw a party for servicemen and women at the Cataract Hotel in Sioux Falls, 1944.



USO centers in Sioux Falls were segregated due to an influx of black soldiers. Troops relaxed at a center, 1944.

## Pheasant Sandwiches

The Aberdeen Canteen offered unusual fare to the military personnel who stopped at the Milwaukee Road Depot. In December 1943, donated pheasants were cooked, ground, and made into sandwiches. They were so popular that residents pooled gasoline coupons and shotgun shells and organized hunts to bring in more birds. Pheasant sandwiches put Aberdeen on the map.

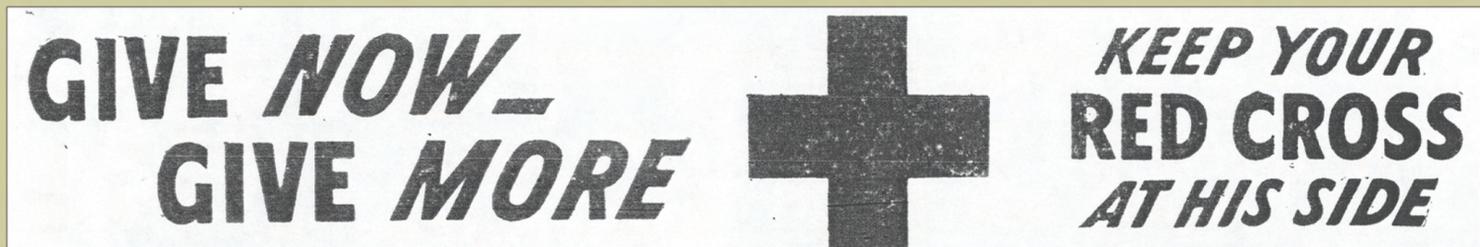
Aberdeen Red Cross Canteen, ca. 1943. Towns within a 75-mile radius donated food, volunteers, and money to the facility.



# SERVICE AT HOME

## Service Organizations

The American Legion, Red Cross, and Cadet Nurse Corps supported the war effort on the home front. The American Legion taught people to identify bombs and conduct blackout drills. It hosted parties, collected gifts for soldiers, and provided memorial services and flags. The women of the American Legion Auxiliary organized blood and bond drives. The Red Cross trained more than 20,000 South Dakotans in first aid. The Cadet Nurse Corps relieved a nurse shortage by training nurses for stateside and overseas duty.



Red Cross uniform and cap

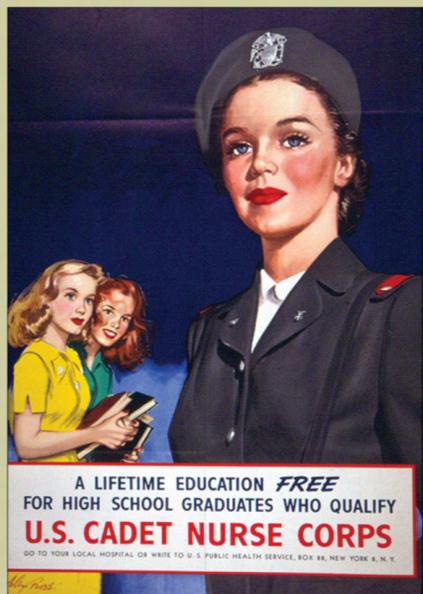


South Dakotans gave generously to Red Cross relief. From 1941 to 1947, they donated almost \$2.3 million.



Red Cross Victory Aides at South Dakota State College in Brookings rolled bandages, wrote letters to soldiers, and repaired small motors, ca. 1943.

The Presentation School of Nursing in Aberdeen was the fourth in the nation to participate in the cadet-nurse training program in 1942. Newspaper ads targeted potential cadet nurses across the state.

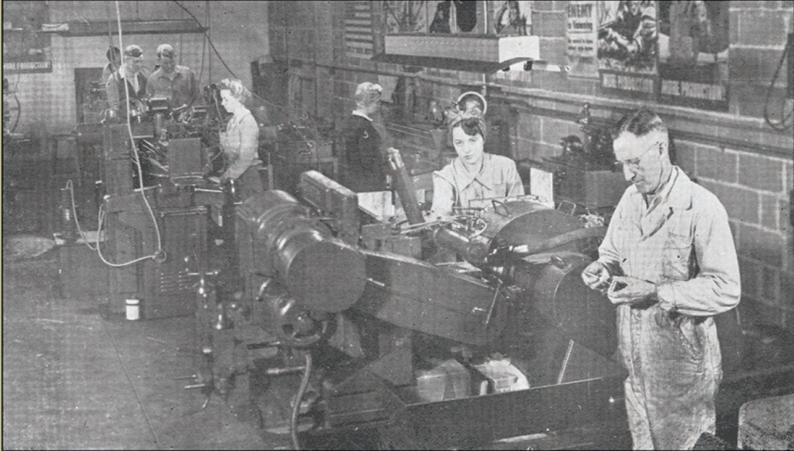


Cadet Nurse Evelyn Engelhardt served at Sprague Hospital in Huron.



# INDUSTRY TO WAR

Private industries changed production to meet wartime demands, voluntarily or by government order. In 1942, the War Production Board limited the use of iron and steel for nonmilitary goods. In response, South Dakota manufacturing companies began producing for the war effort.



Rozum Companies made aircraft precision parts, ammunition dies, shell punches, and heat-treating tools in Mitchell, Huron, and Watertown.



Wilson Truck Lines promoted war-bond sales on the sides of their rigs.

Between 1940 and 1945, more than 6 million women entered the workforce. With fathers and husbands gone to fight, women had to work to support their families. They provided crucial home-front labor. John Morrell and Company recruited workers, 1943.

**GIRLS!  
WOMEN!**

For work in Meat Packing Plant an essential industry. Starting at 55 1/2c per hour with a raise to 59c per hour at the end of thirty days.

**TIME AND ONE-HALF FOR ALL WORK OVER 40 HOURS PER WEEK**

Applicants Must Have Social Security Numbers and Referral Card from the United States Employment Service

APPLY AT  
EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

**JOHN MORRELL & COMPANY**

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM ANYONE WHO IS NOW EMPLOYED IN AN ESSENTIAL INDUSTRY!



Welding class at Homestake Mine, ca. 1943.

Grenade casing produced by the Homestake Mining Company.



## Mining Stops for War

In 1942, the War Production Board suspended gold mining west of the Mississippi River. The board hoped miners would move into the copper and iron mines, which were more important to the war effort, but few did so. Homestake Mine stopped production. Of its 2,200 workers, more than 450 joined the military. More than 1,600 left Lead. The remaining 735 worked in its foundry and machine shops, making tools, airplane parts, and grenade casings. Its Spearfish sawmill produced lumber for military construction.

The War Production Board wanted gold miners to move to copper or iron mines. This ad appeared in The Lead Daily Call on the same day the paper announced the impending shutdown of the Homestake Mine.

### Miners Wanted

War Production Board Says: "Metals are of vital importance to the nation's war effort. Production must be increased."

Our mine - a lead zinc producer - has been in production for years and plans are made to double the preset output. To do this we want around 50 experienced miners and muckers at once. Mines are classified as a defense industry. We will not hire anyone at present employed in defense industries elsewhere. Write or wire for complete information regarding rate of pay, working conditions, location, living conditions and costs, transportation facilities, etc. Steady jobs to the right men.

TENNESSEE-SCHUYLKILL CORPORATION  
Box 6, Chloride, Arizona

# DOING OUR PART

## On the Farm

South Dakota's major at-home contribution to the war was its farm production. Increased demand plus fuel and labor shortages created serious problems for farmers. The shortage of workers in 1942 might have left crops in the field. City workers, college students, migrant Mexican workers, and servicemen from the Sioux Falls training base helped with the harvest.



*Workers from the city shocked oats in Lyman County, July 1942.*



*Francis Bates hoed tomatoes in her Victory Garden in Mount Vernon, June 1942. The Victory Garden Program encouraged civilians to plant backyard gardens. In 1943, 20 million gardens produced nearly half of the nation's fresh vegetables.*



## POWs in South Dakota

With labor in short supply, POWs helped thresh grain, detassel corn, and harvest sugar beets. Sioux Falls and Yankton each had a POW camp. Other POWs were housed in western South Dakota. In addition to farm work, they installed riprap on the Missouri River and worked on military bases in laundries, bakeries, mess halls, and on cleaning crews.

*POWs installed riprap along the Missouri River near Yankton, ca. 1945.*



# DOING OUR PART

## Drives

Salvage drives in South Dakota collected scrap metal, paper, rags, tin, and rubber. The state's schoolchildren collected 14,000 bags of milkweed pods and floss for making life jackets. The drives gave communities a way to support the war effort.



*Northville contributed this scrap iron, 1943.*



*Scrap drive ad, The Lead Daily Call, October 5, 1942.*



*Milkweed floss filled life jackets during the war.*



*The community of Fountain, in Aurora Township, collected scrap iron, 1943.*

## Bond Sales

The U.S. Treasury Department sold war bonds to help pay for the war. Bond drives depended on commercial advertising. South Dakotans opened their pocketbooks time and again.

*Posters in shop windows, newspaper ads, and even matchboxes reminded citizens to buy bonds.*

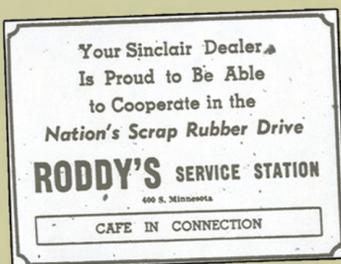


# DOING OUR PART

## Rationing

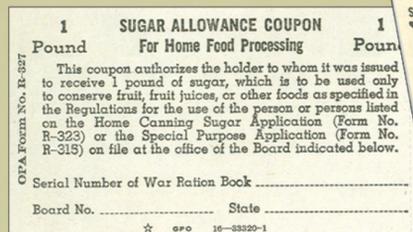
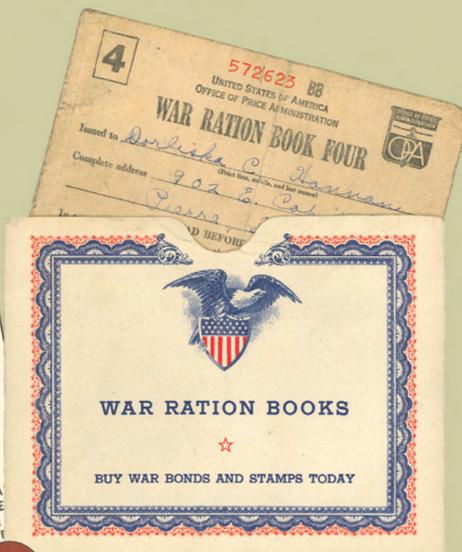
Rationing defined life on the World War II home front. Production stopped completely on consumer goods like vacuum cleaners and washing machines. Everyday items like sugar and tires were rationed, disrupting daily routines. The ration system used books, stamps, coupons, tokens, certificates, and checks. Butter, meat, coffee, canned goods, shoes, and gasoline were also rationed.

Gas rationing conserved rubber supplies, put fewer cars on the road, and extended the life of rubber tires. Strict 35 mph speed limits decreased tire wear. Sioux Falls filling stations took part in a national scrap-rubber drive in June 1942. Rubber was both rationed and collected because of its scarcity.



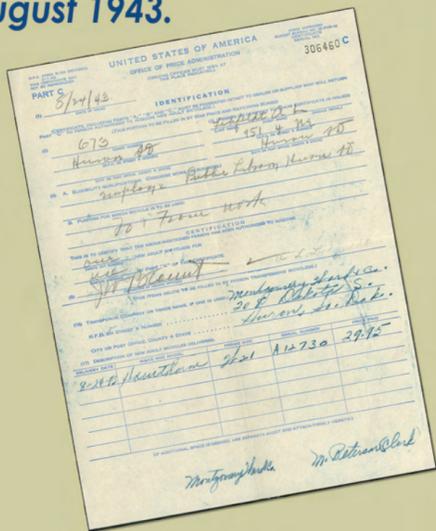
Processed foods, fats, canned fish, cheese, canned milk, and meat were all rationed by points. To get point-rationed items, buyers used stamp ration books. Issued monthly, stamps had assigned point values. To buy rationed goods, consumers paid for items and turned in ration stamps. Stamps had to be budgeted carefully.

Once the month's supply of ration stamps was used up, buyers could not get any more point-rationed goods even if they had money.



Canning homegrown produce stretched food supplies.

Scarce goods such as automobiles, bicycles, and tires were rationed by certificate. To purchase these items a person had to show need and get approval from the ration board. Ardis L. Lehfeldt of Huron received permission to buy this Montgomery Ward bicycle in August 1943.



# IT'S OVER!

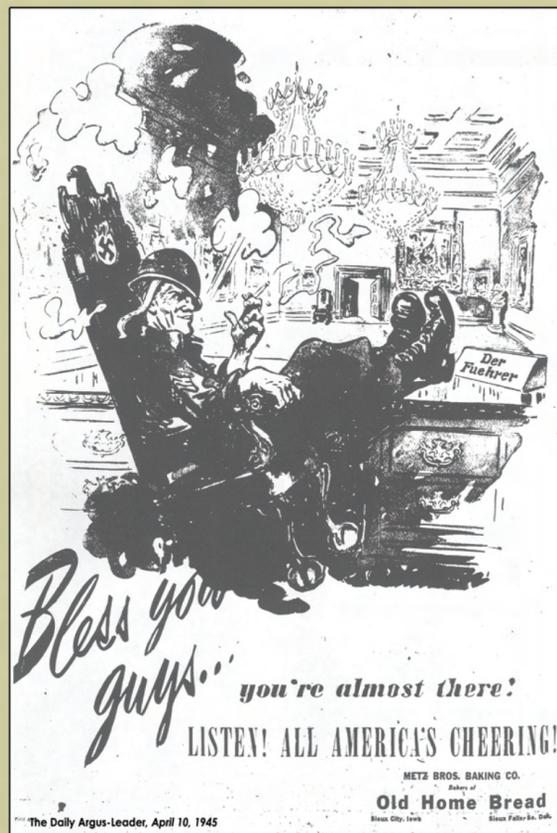
The atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan, in August 1945 quickly ended fighting in the Pacific. Japan's surrender and the end of the war triggered worldwide celebration. Then the job of returning millions of American soldiers to a peacetime economy and home front life began.



*Crowds in Sioux Falls celebrated the end of the war, 1945.*



*The Daily Argus-Leader, August 16, 1945.*



*Following Lakota tradition, the Pine Ridge Reservation welcomed back its soldiers with a victory dance, 1945.*



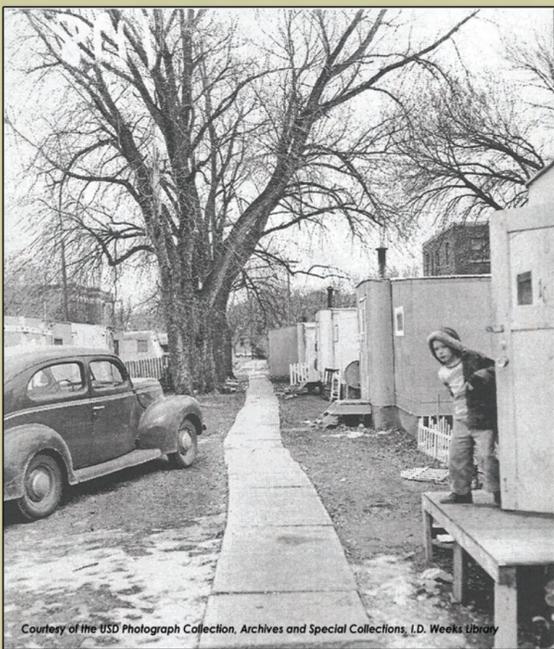
# COMING HOME

## GI Bill

The Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly called the GI Bill, offered veterans help with education, job training, unemployment, mortgages, and readjustment. Some states, including South Dakota, paid war bonuses. State veterans received 50 cents for each day of stateside service and 75 cents for duty overseas.

## College Bound

Officials underestimated the number of veterans who would use the GI Bill's education benefits. In 1946, enrollment numbers on some South Dakota campuses tripled. The influx of veterans taxed classroom and living space on all the state's campuses. The GI Bill made college affordable for low-income and minority veterans. An educated and higher-paid workforce drove America's postwar growth.



*Rows of trailers at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion provided homes for students, ca. 1947.*



*Anything with a roof became housing after the war. Lou and Ann St. Pierre rented this chicken coop in Lake Andes and made it their home. It had electricity but no room for a refrigerator. (L to r) Evelyn Carda, Ann St. Pierre, and Georgie Honomichl posed by the house, 1947.*

*Returning veterans created a housing crunch across the country. The Office of War Mobilization offered loans to companies producing prefabricated homes. The Lustron Corporation of Columbus, Ohio, designed and built mass-produced, enameled-steel houses from 1946 to 1950—about 38 in South Dakota.*



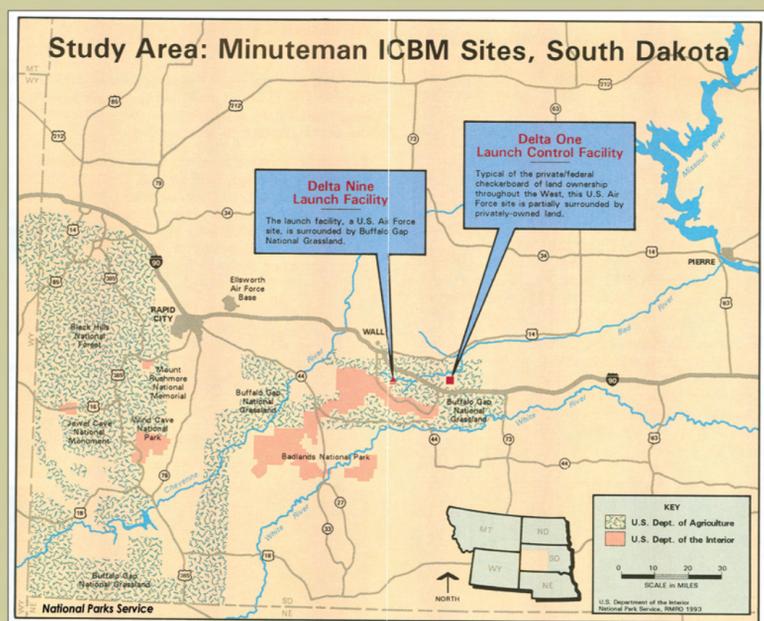
# POST WAR

## Getting Back to Normal

The fighting ended in 1945, but the impact of war remained. For the loved ones of those killed, life would never be the same. Scarce items reappeared on grocer's shelves. Peace, comfort, and stability replaced shortages and fear. The effects of sacrifices made in battle and at home lingered, but the future looked promising.

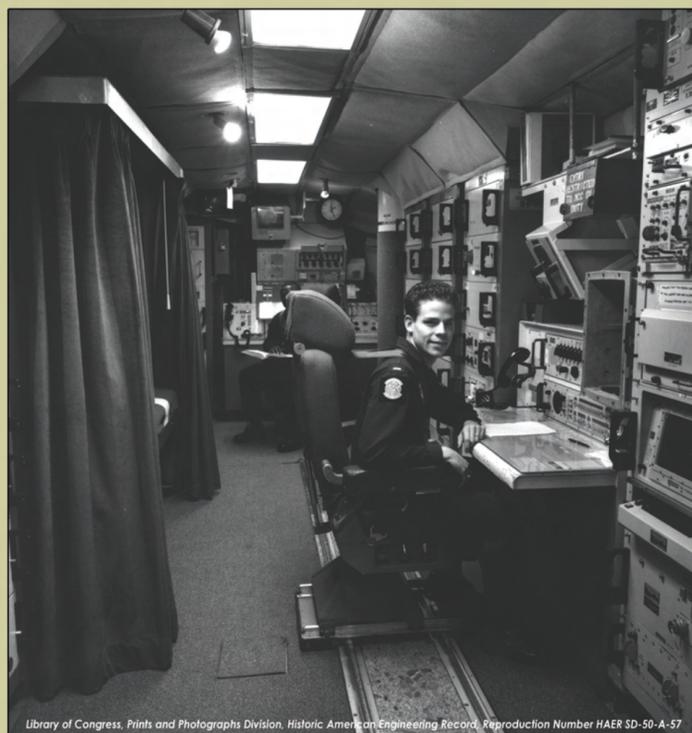
## Cold War

Peace was short-lived, and America soon entered the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Ellsworth Air Force Base played a major role in this conflict. It housed the nuclear-armed bombers of the Strategic Air Command. Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) silos dotted West River.



Army bases, missile fields, nuclear test sites, and bombing ranges dotted the West after the war. During the Cold War, North and South Dakota housed one-fifth of the country's ICBM sites.

Crewmen posed in Delta-01 Launch Control Facility, 1994.



Ellsworth Air Force Base commanded the Titan and Minuteman missile sites in western South Dakota. All the missiles could reach Moscow. The missile sites, or Launch Facilities, were unmanned. Crew and support staff worked at Launch Control Facilities located several miles from the missile sites.

This exhibition was funded with financial support from the South Dakota Heritage Fund and the State of South Dakota through the Future Fund.