

THE WAR AT HOME:
WORLD WAR II AND ITS EFFECTS ON BOWLING GREEN, KY

By: Sheryl Reed
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WWI + WWII 4-2
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Material



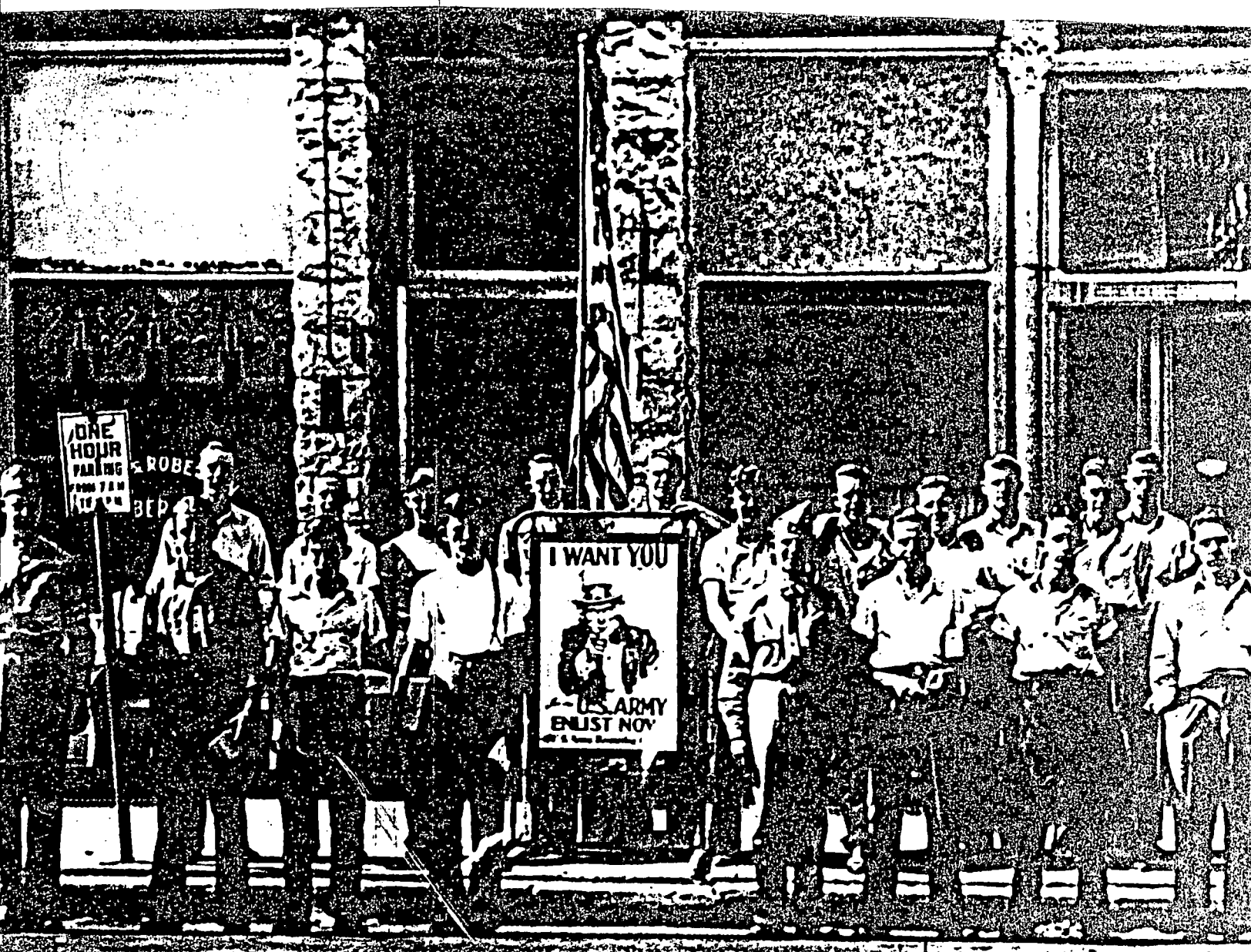
The early 1940s were a time of great confusion. All eyes were focused on the war raging in Europe and in the Far East. The United States joined the Allied powers in 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Thousands of troops were sent overseas, while Americans back home felt the subtle effects of war on an economy and society.



Every town, great and small, tried to do their part for the war effort. Bowling Green, Kentucky, was one typical small town. In the 1940 census, it claimed 14,585 people. With the United States declaration of war on Japan and Germany, Bowling Green saw many sons, brothers, and fathers go off to war. For those who remained behind, daily life changed to meet the needs of a growing war economy.

Picture :
B6- WWII
B756

4-4



Many young men volunteered for the services once war began. Bowling Green had a business college and a state teachers college, so there were many young people to recruit. In addition, some high school students volunteered. Many had to wait until the war was over before they could graduate.

10/3/43 Mayor Issues Proclamation Urging Wac Recruiting Drive Observance

Mayor Gaston W. Cole Saturday issued a proclamation calling for the observance of Womens Army Corps enlistment period from Sept. 27 to Dec. 7.

Miss Ida Hodges, Wac recruiting chairman for Warren county, Saturday announced the personnel of three of the...

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has suffered the loss of 1,512 casualties, and Warren County has suffered 13 killed in action and 14 died in Army Camps in the Second World War to date; and Whereas, General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, has requested that Kentucky replace these 1,512 casualties by enlistments in the Womens Army Corps;

Now, Therefore, as Mayor of Bowling Green, Ky, I do hereby proclaim September 27, 1943 to December 7, 1943, inclusive, as "Womens Army Corps Enlistment Period," and call upon the women of Warren County to meet this urgent need.

Gaston W. Cole, Mayor, City of Bowling Green, Ky.
Major D. D. Carpenter, commanding officer of the R.O.T.C. at Western, Saturday expressed a hope for "immediate and enthusiastic response" to the All-States Recruiting Campaign of the Womens Army Corps.

"If the women of Bowling Green and Warren county could see the excellent work being done at army posts by members of the Womens Army Corps, and the amount of work still to be done when we can get more Wacs, I am sure there would be no question in their minds about what course of action they should take," Major Carpenter declared.

"The Wacs are making a wonderful record. Our officers have nothing to praise for the work they do. Sometimes they replace as many as five men in clerical and more proved much faster and more efficient. In fact, there are approximately 150 specialist jobs which they are being trained to take over. Many able-bodied men are held in non-combatant work when they are needed for combat which they would infinitely

Named Official In Wac Drive

Prospects Committee
Chairman Here Is
Selected 10/8/43

Mrs. Sarah Garriss has been appointed chairman of the prospects committee for Bowling Green and Warren county in the Wac recruiting campaign. Mrs. Garriss will announce members of her committee later.

Replacement of 1,512 Kentucky casualties by women from this state is being sought in the enlistment drive, in which the national goal is 70,000.

Dr. John Blackburn, who served in World War I, says this regarding the part being taken by the Wacs in World War II.

...re being given a won-
tunity to serve in this
privilege that was denied
World War I.

...that is being done by
very, very helpful. They
positions that men have
and can do many things
manual labor. Altogether

...be able to release many
tive field duty that other-
be held to jobs that can-
filled by civilians and wo-
any women can serve as
s where they are not train-
They can do much of the
being done by the order-
very creditable manner.

...Girls who are enlisted in this per-
lod will wait at home until they
whole company is formed, when
they will march off to training to-
gether. The Governor or his rep-
representative will present them with
Kentucky State flag, which will be
carried in front of the company in-
campaign.

...sure Bowling Green and
county women rank high in
otism and zealous support
effort, and will exceed
of volunteers in this
declared Major Car-



10/4/43 Wacs Recruited Here In Drive To Members of Kentucky Company

recruited here for army
members of a Ken-
of the Womens
chairmen have also
every county in
Vacs to replace
These num-

Highland Heights, who was sent
from Cincinnati to be liaison officer
to the Governor during the cam-
paign. Lieutenant Mason will stay
in Frankfort through December 7.

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Some Bowling Green women joined various female branches of the services as well. Many nurses from the county hospital joined the Nurses Corp. Some went overseas for the Red Cross; and some joined WACS and WAVES. Most of these were young women, either in college or not married yet.

4-6
Picture:
BG - WWII
B675



Back home, everyone tried to help in the war effort. Towns all across America had Victory Clubs, run by local businessmen. These clubs helped to promote the war bond drives and various other types of war effort campaigns.

YOU Should Attend The BOND RALLY

**Fountain Square Park
Tomorrow, Monday, Afternoon**

Following The Parade at 1:30 o'clock

★ ★ HEAR ★ ★

Sgt. ALVIN YORK

Hero of World War No. 1
and

Gen. Charles L. Scott

of Fort Knox

Come and do YOUR part to help put Warren County over the top in the 2nd War Loan Drive ... They need your dollar! Warren County has never failed to reach their quota, and we do not want to fail now ... Attend this Rally prepared to do your utmost for our fighting men!

**THEY GIVE
THEIR LIVES
YOU
LEND
YOUR
MONEY**

This Message Made Possible By The Following Patriotic Business Firms—

Alco Motor Company
American National Bank
Automotive Parts Company
Bawling Green Livestock Mkt.

Beggs Furniture Company
Bill's Service Center
Boas & Company

Brown Ice Cream &
Milk Company
Bardens Pure Milk Company
Bawling Green Realty Company
Bettsworth Motor Company

And
Park City Motor Company
Carpenter-Dent Sublett
Drug Stores

Corvath Electrical
Mechanical Company
Dine Garage

Dine Cafe
Dine Belle Nite Club
Dine, The Woman's Store

J. L. Durbin & Company
Dinner Floral Company
Electric Plant Board

Fugate Bus Lines
Field Packing Company

Galloway Motor Company
Hayes Freight Lines
Honey-Krust Bakers

Kentucky Rock Asphalt Co.
Life & Casualty Insurance Co.
Lorman Bros.

Louis-Glyn & Helms
Love's Studio, Price Bldg.
The George McGinley Supply
Company

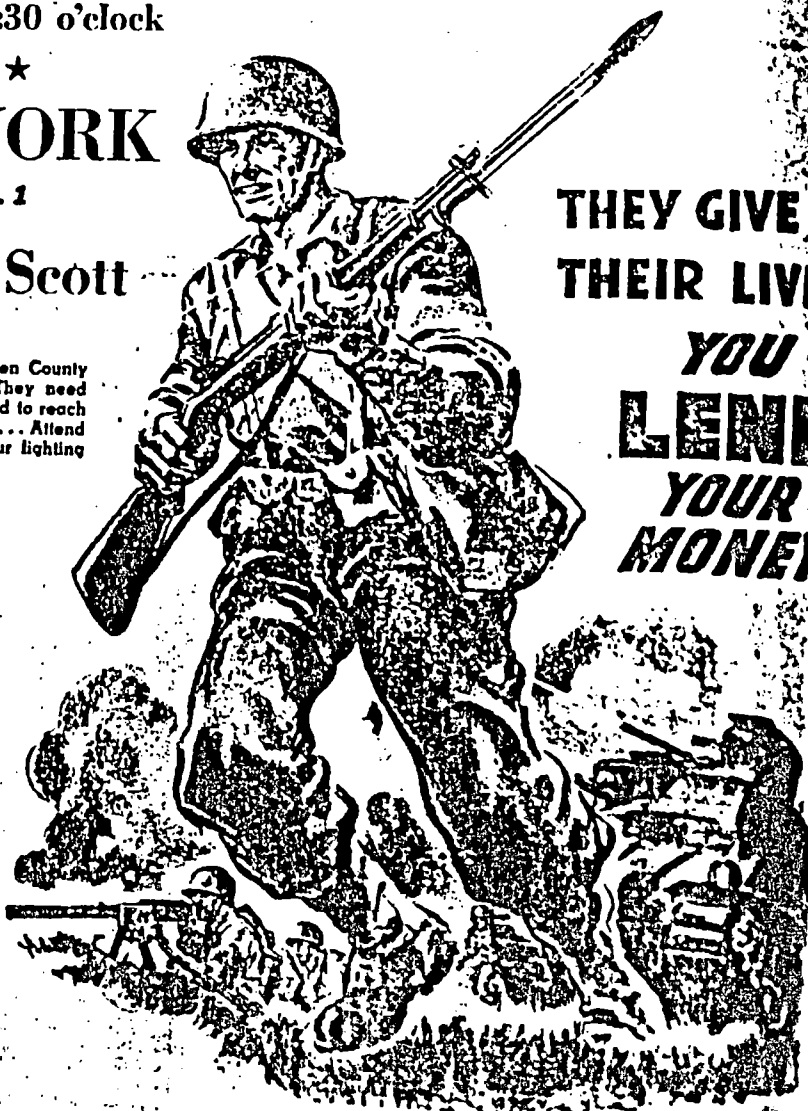
Motor & Electric Supply Co.
Modern Welding Company
Morris Jewelry Store

Norman's
Park City Daily News
Sam Pashin & Company

Suel Rogers
Scott Tobacco Company
Saunders Taxicab Service

Station
Tri-City Utilities Company
Troy Steam Laundry &
Dry Cleaning Company

Warren Rural Electric Coop.
Corporation
Warren's Men's Store



War bond rallies were held in almost every town in America. They would have speakers to discuss the war and to promote buying war bonds. People could buy these bonds at the rallies, at movie theatres--where volunteers promoted them before the attraction, and at banks. Bonds could be bought for \$17.50, 25.00, 50.00, and 100.00. Children could buy small war stamps for a few dollars, as well.

4-8
Picture:
B61-WWII
B701

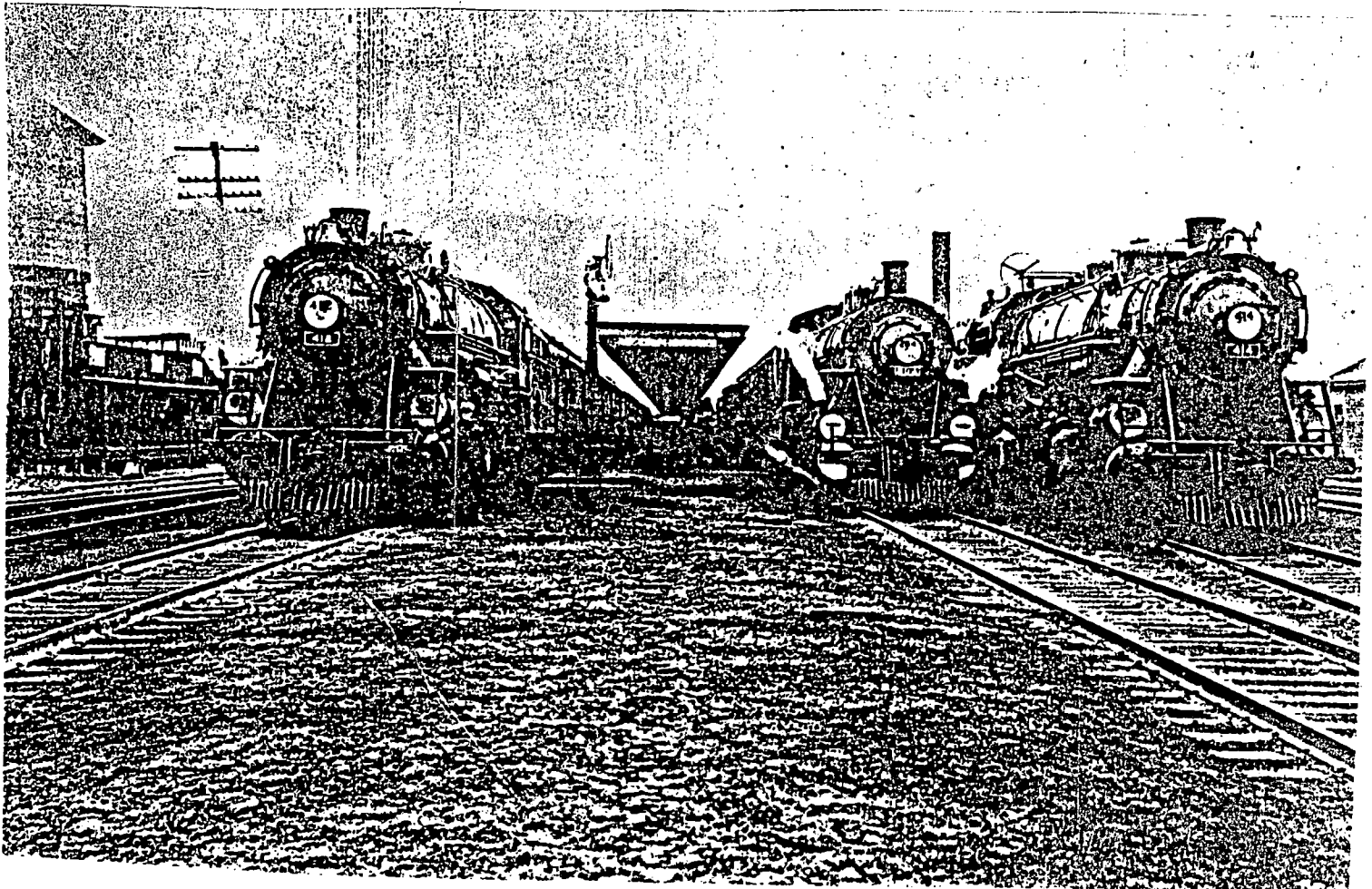


The aluminum drive helped to gather scrap metal to help in war production. The fence around Fountain Square Park and around the cemetery were both taken for the drive. In addition, volunteers went door-to-door to gather aluminum pots and pans. Combined with scrap metal collected from other towns, industries were able to utilize the metal in creating war munitions.



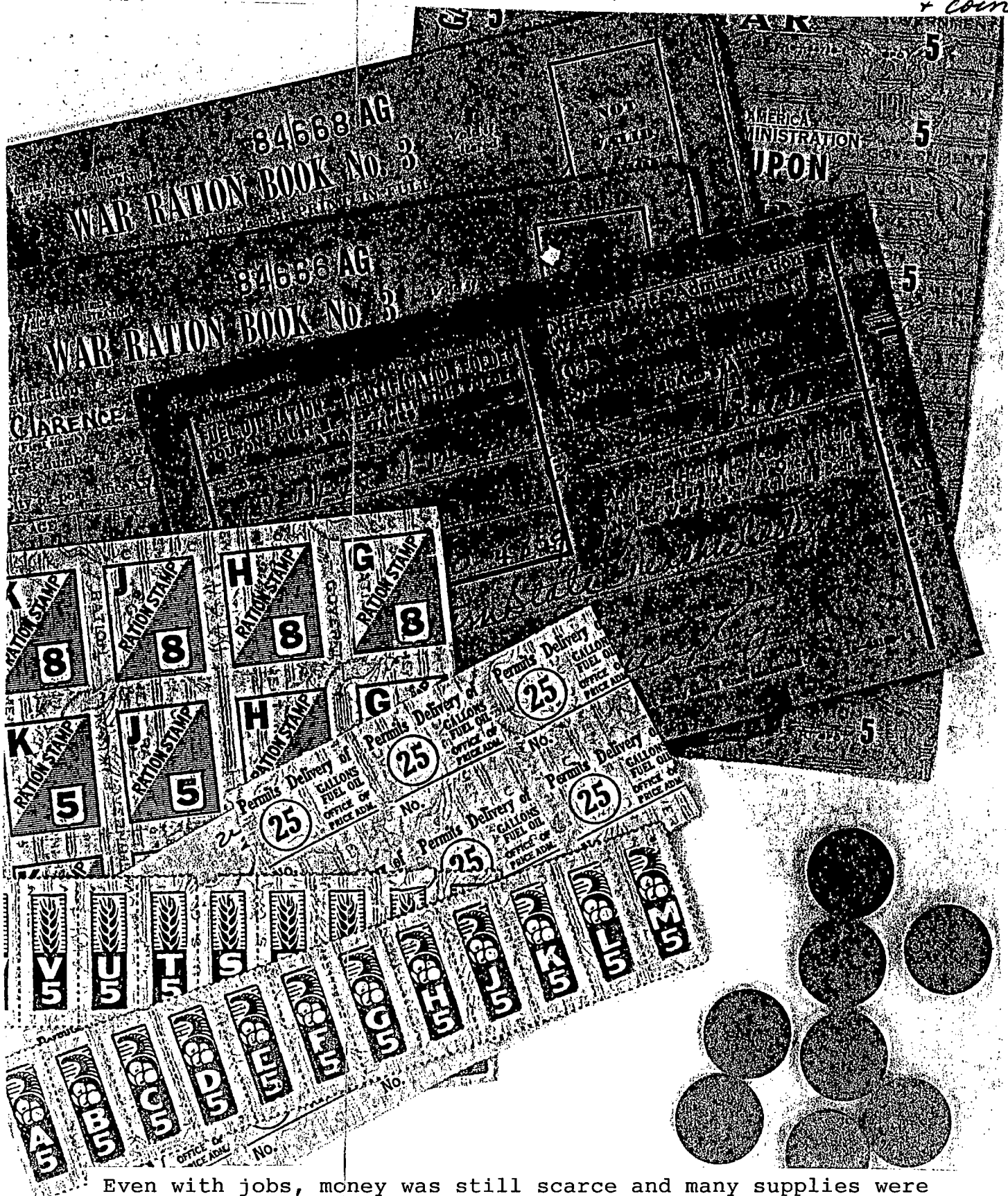
Red Cross, and other organizations like Bundles for Britain, were important volunteer groups. They rolled bandages, knitted caps, scarves, mittens, and sweaters for troops and refugees, and sent care packages to their relatives overseas. After the war was over, the Red Cross sent certificates to all its volunteers. Many had worked over a thousand hours for the organization.

4-10
Picture
B6-RR
B620



Many women also baked cookies and made sandwiches for the troops passing through town. Up to four trains came through Bowling Green every afternoon. Young ladies would frequently take food to the trains and pass them out to the soldiers. In addition, the troops would be entertained at dances held by the local Canteen troops.

4-11
WWII box
collage of ration
books, stamps
+ coins



Even with jobs, money was still scarce and many supplies were rationed. Ration cards, books, stamps, and coins were found in every home. Sugar, gasoline, tires, and other items were in great demand. Women had to learn how to cook without sugar if they wanted to save the sugar for home canning. Home canning and victory gardens were promoted so that canned goods could be sent to the troops overseas.

NOBODY EV'RY PAYDAY

The Little Things That Count!

Music by

BUY BONDS TODAY?

words and music by IRVING BERLIN



THEME SONG OF THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE

Almost everyone listened to the radio each day to hear how the war was progressing. In addition to news reports, they would hear a host of war promotional songs. It was very important to keep moral high in the states. People were told that if they helped the war effort in every way possible, they could help bring "the boys" safely home. Songs were just one of many ways this message was promoted.

Idle words make busy subs!



1. IN MAINE A SHIPYARD WORKER SPOKE WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT...(THE SHIP!).



2. IN FLORIDA A WAITER OVERHEARD SOME CARELESS TALK.

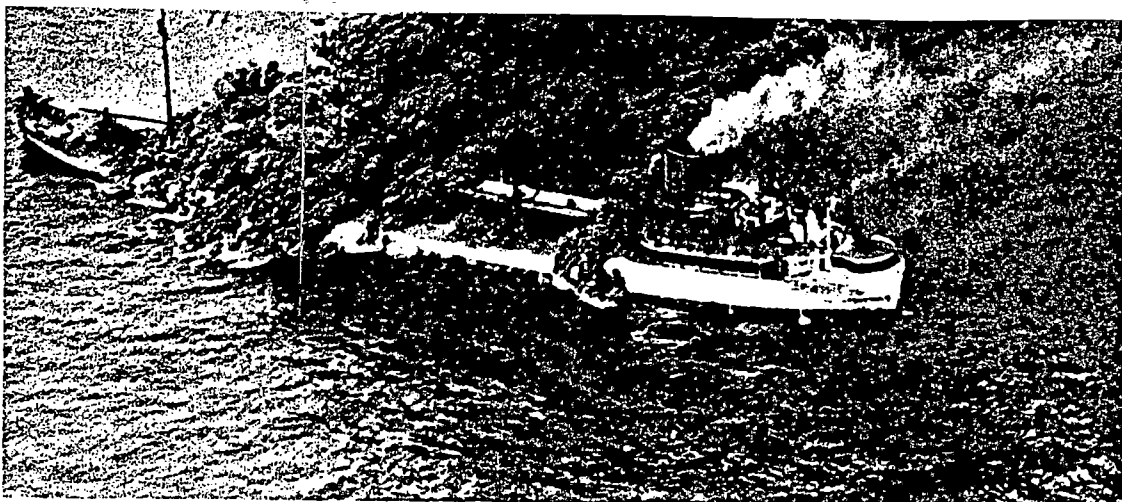


3. IN NEW YORK A SAILOR'S FRIEND GOT CONFIDENTIAL...(THE DATE!).

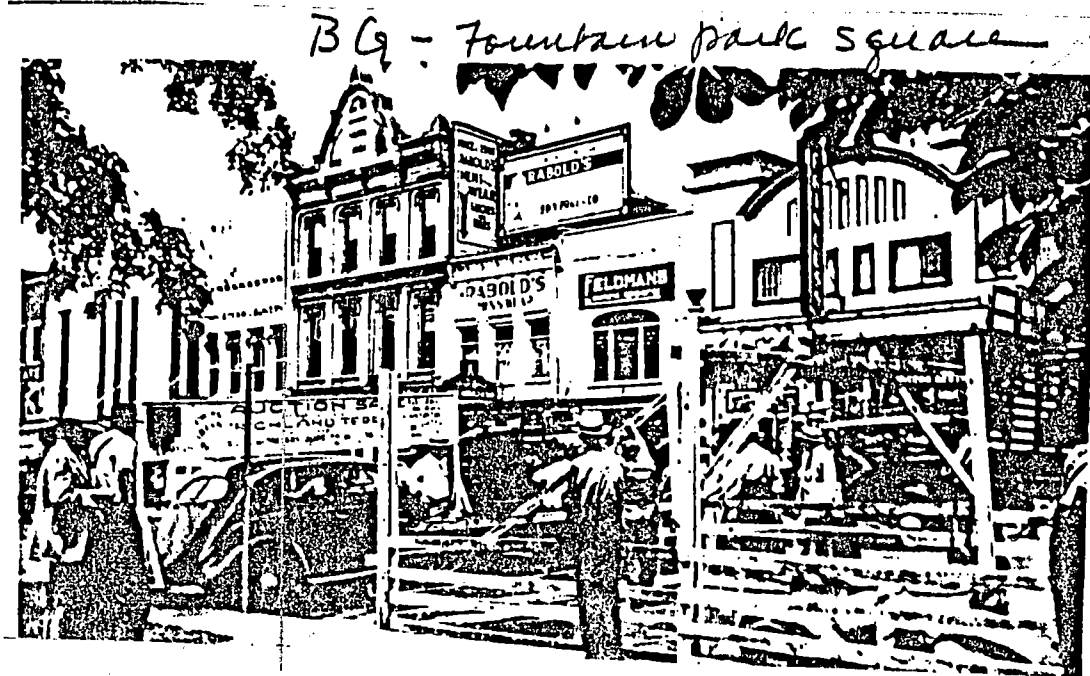


4. IN MICHIGAN AN OFFICE WORKER MADE A TOO-GOOD GUESS.

People were also expected to keep any secret information they might know to themselves. Many posters and full-page ads were everywhere claiming "Loose lips sink ships" and "Idle words make busy subs."



5. AND A U-BOAT CAPTAIN EARNED AN IRON CROSS.



The war raged on for four years after the United States became involved. 1945, however, was a glorious year in that the war ended in both Europe and Asia. Huge celebrations took place at Fountain Square Park and on the Court House lawn on both V-E and V-J Days.

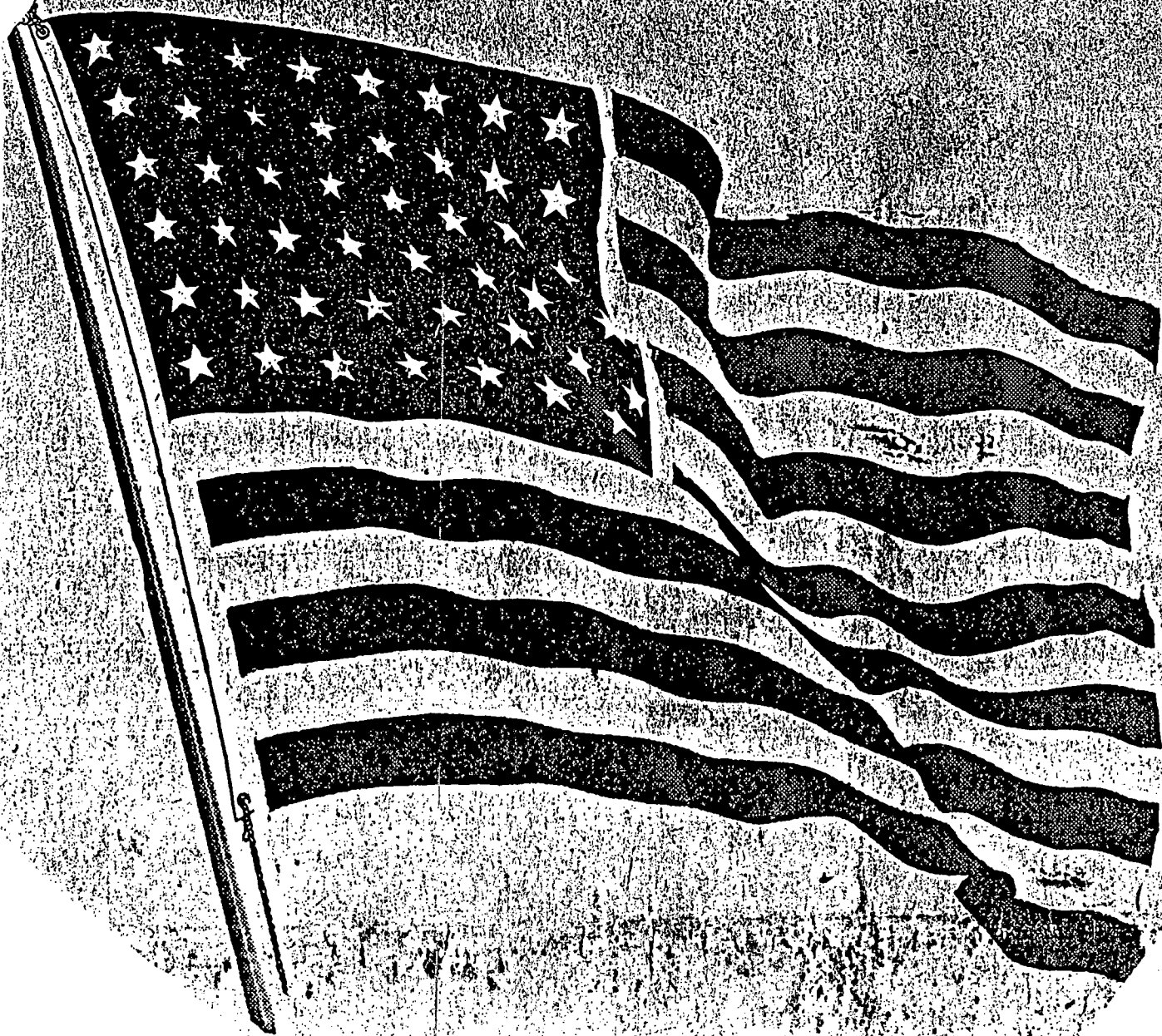
4-15
Picture
B61-WWII
B854



Troops came home and paraded through towns to the cheers of thousands of people. The Bowling Green newspaper claimed that "pandemonium reigned" while "young and old, small and great, gathered quickly on the street...while countless others celebrated in almost wild abandon."

4-16
WWII Box
Newspaper -
"Miles City Daily
Star"
Aug 15, 1945

"Praise the Power that Hath Made and Preserved us a Nation!"



The war was finally over. For weeks to come, local newspapers would talk of the glorious battles and of the patriotic people who helped to win the war. What was not written, however, was that World War II profoundly altered society. It pushed the country into a new age of civilization.

Sources for the photographs and collage material can be found in the Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky University.

Information given in presentation found in various newspapers, histories, and oral interviews with Bowling Green people.