

Standard 5.56 Lesson

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CHAPTER **1**

Standard 5.56 Lesson

5.56 With Supporting facts and details provide reasons for rationing, victory gardens, the design of the Rosie the Riveter ideal (AVCO jobs for Tennessee Women) and the Women Airforce Service Pilots - Cornelia Fort.

*****EXTENDED RESPONSE LESSON**



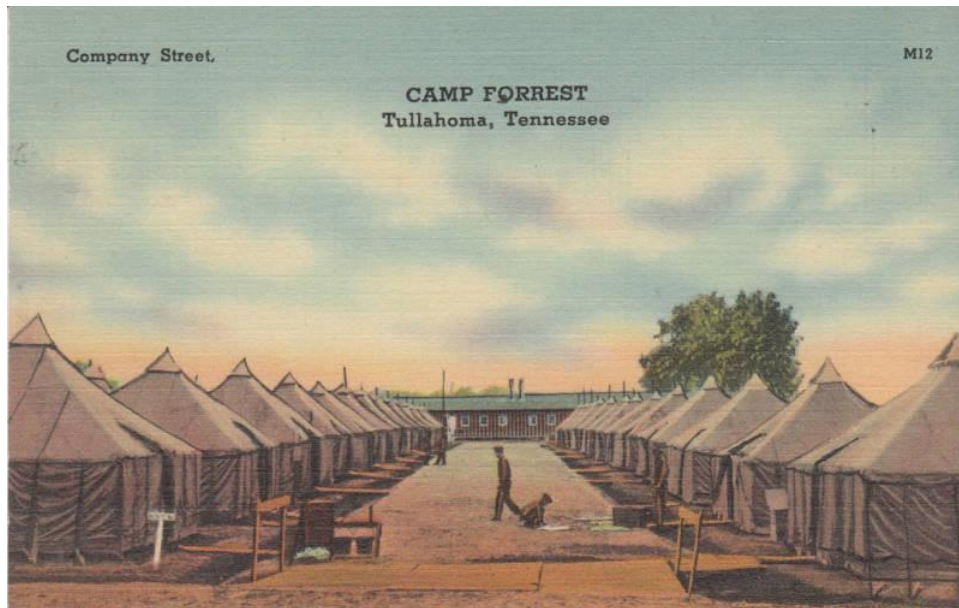
America and Tennessee Gets Ready



Even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Tennessee was busy preparing for the possible war. Governor Prentice Cooper saw no way that the United States would avoid war. The Tennessee General Assembly created the Tennessee State Guard just in case the state needed to be protected if the Tennessee National Guard was called into service.



The state of Tennessee had purchased several parcels of land that would be used for military bases. Seward Air Force Base by Smyrna, Camp Campbell near Clarksville and Camp Forrest near our town of Tullahoma were all getting built and ready.



Camp Tyson was built in Henry County and the Old Hickory Division from World War I, had returned to active duty. President Roosevelt knew that United States soldiers had to be prepared to fight. He directed the army to select 21 counties in the state to serve as practice areas to prepare the soldiers for fighting. Middle Tennessee was chosen because the land in the central part of our state was much like land in Western Europe.

More than 1 million soldiers arrived in Tennessee to begin their training. They were divided into a “blue” army and a “red” army. This exercise was known as Tennessee Maneuvers.

War Efforts From Tennessee

As the war started, American factories were busy making items used for the war. Because the southern states were still recovering from the economic problems of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt gave a larger share of contracts to southern companies to make war goods.

Milan Ordnance Center in Milan, Tennessee, produced ammunition for the war effort and employed more 11,000 workers. Many of those workers were women. Many Tennesseans were also employed making explosives in Kingsport, Tennessee at the Tennessee Eastman Company.

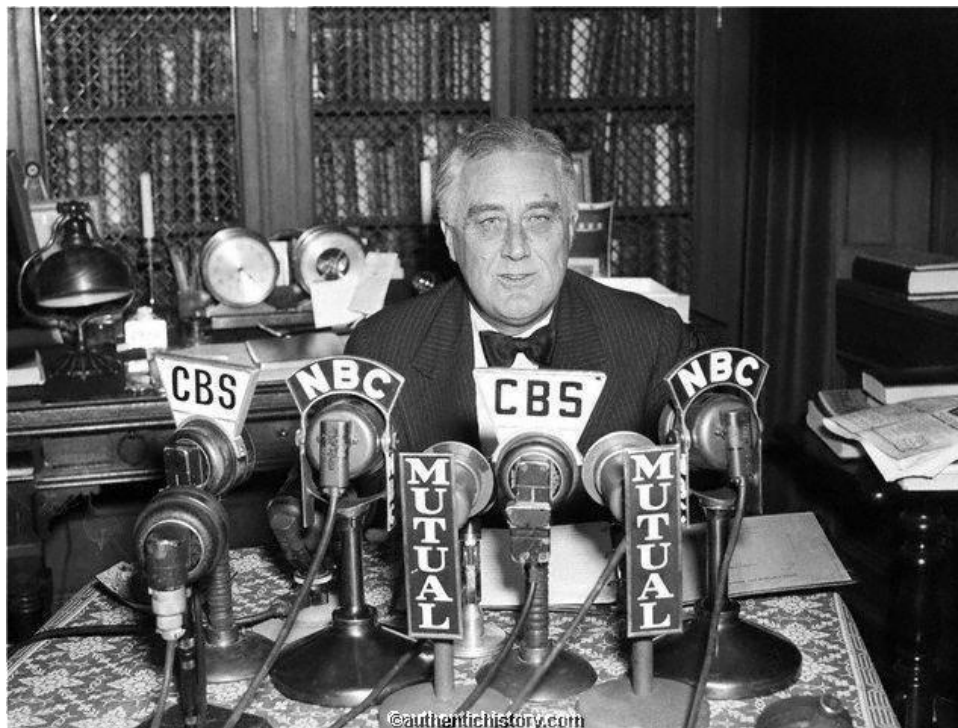


Car plants in Memphis stopped making automobiles and began making airplane parts. The Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, located in Nashville, Tennessee, produced the P-39 "Lightning" fighter for the British air force. A plant in Old Hickory made a plastic wrap that was placed inside life jackets and floating rafts to make them float better. With the industry to help the war effort, the Great Depression was finally over in Tennessee.



Tennessee companies did other things to help the war effort. The Tennessee Valley Authority provided energy to make these new war items. The TVA located its headquarters in Knoxville, Tennessee and the population of Knoxville grew dramatically during the early years of World War II. The Aluminum Company of America - ALCOA - built a factory in Maryville, Tennessee and employed over 4,000 workers.

On The Homefront



President Roosevelt kept the United States informed by broadcasting his Fireside Chats over the radio. He gave news and encouragement to the people. He also asked that the American people do little things to join the war effort in

small but important ways



YouTube - The Story Behind Rosie the Riveter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3461S5YtKM>

Rosie the Riveter - Real Women Workers in World War II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04VNBM1PqR8>

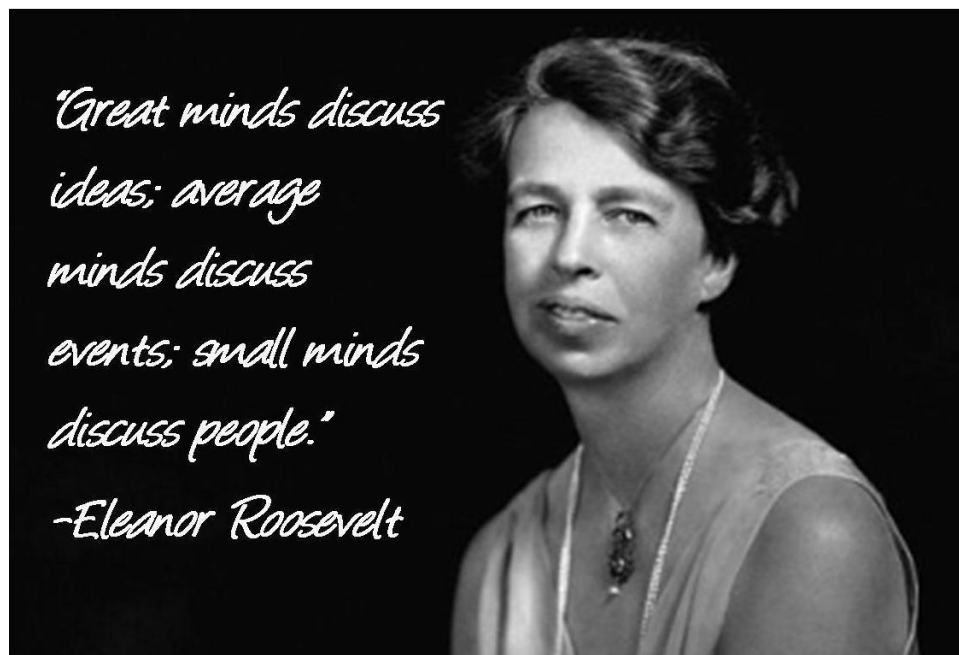
The American Homefront



"Rosie the Riveter" served as both a symbol of women's contributions to the war effort as well as a call to others to join.

America was the largest military power in the world — in theory.

The large population, generous natural resources, advanced infrastructure, and solid capital base were all just potential. Centralization and mobilization were necessary to jump-start this unwieldy machine. Within a week of Pearl Harbor, Congress passed the War Powers Act, granting wide authority to the President to conduct the war effort. Throughout the war hundreds more alphabet agencies were created to manage the American homefront.



First the United States needed to enlarge its armed forces. Because of the peacetime draft, the United States Armed Forces boasted over 1.5 million members. By the end of the war, that number rose to 12 million. A more expansive draft and a vigorous recruitment campaign produced these results. Prodded by Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR created women's auxiliary forces for the army (WACs), navy (WAVES), air force (WASPS), and Coast Guard (SPARS). The colossal ranks of the armed services created a huge labor shortage.



Toward this end a "Work or Fight" propaganda campaign was waged. "Rosie the Riveter" posters beckoned housewives to leave the home and enter the nation's factories. About 6.5 million females entered the workforce during the war years, many for the first time. African Americans continued the Great Migration northward, filling vacated factory jobs. Mexican Americans were courted to cross the border to assist with the harvest season in the *bracero* guest-worker program. Thousands of retirees went back on the job, and more and more teenagers pitched in to fill the demand for new labor.



Posters like this encouraged Americans to conserve energy and resources by producing their own food.

The United States government spent over twice as much money fighting World War II as it had spent on all previous programs since its creation. Tax rates were raised to generate revenue and control inflation. Some people paid 90% of what they earned toward taxes!

YouTube - The Original Victory Garden

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31hB5d__UT4



Still, more money was needed so the government again launched Liberty and Victory Loan Drives like those that helped finance the First World War. In addition, the size of the federal government more than tripled from about a million workers in 1940 to almost 3.5 million in 1945.

YouTube - How to Use Your Ration Books!

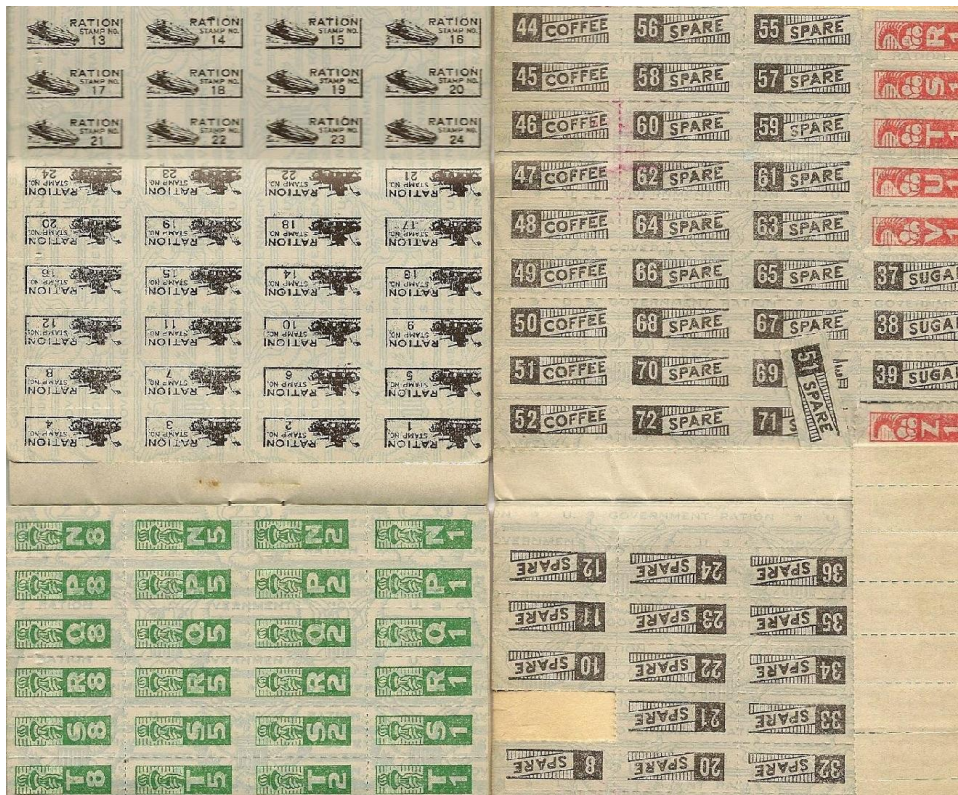
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60qOtTaz6VQ>

YouTube - Rationing and Food Coupons During World War II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwx-fcm5PyA>



Many Americans helped the war efforts by **rationing** - using small amounts of certain foods. The government wanted to make sure that the soldiers were given food products that they needed. Under the rationing plan, each family member would receive a ration book each month. The ration book contained stamps so that buyers could keep track of how much they could buy of certain items. Families were given enough stamps to purchase 4 pounds of butter a month. They would pay for the butter with money and also pay with a ration stamp. If they ran out of ration stamps too quickly, then they would not be able to purchase that item until the next month.



To help save their ration stamps, many families started growing their own food. These **victory gardens** helped conserve the need to purchase food items.



The United States managed to raise enough food and raw materials in the First World War through voluntary measures. This time, federal officials agreed that only through rationing could the demands be met. Americans were issued books of stamps for key items such as gasoline, sugar, meat, butter, canned foods, fuel oil, shoes, and rubber. No purchase of these commodities was legal without a stamp. Victory speed limits attempted to conserve fuel by requiring Americans to drive more slowly. Rotating blackouts conserved fuel to be shipped overseas. Groups such as the Boy Scouts led scrap metal drives. Consumer goods like automobiles and refrigerators simply were not produced. Women drew lines down the backs of their legs to simulate nylon stockings when there were such shortages. Backyard gardens produced about 8 million tons of food.



Crooners like Bing Crosby kept America smiling during the war with hits like "Goodbye Mama, I'm Off to Yokohama."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyOoJhqEzas>

Additionally, the Office of War Information sponsored posters and rallies to appeal to patriotic heartstrings. Songs like Bing Crosby's "Junk Will Win the War" and "Goodbye Mama, I'm Off to Yokohama" were on the lips of many Americans. Propaganda movies shot by famed directors such as Frank Capra inspired millions.

The accomplishments of the American public were nothing short of miraculous. The navy had fewer than 5,000 vessels prior to the bombing at Pearl Harbor. By 1945, they had over 90,000. In addition, over 80,000 tanks and nearly 300,000 aircraft were produced during the war years. Millions of machine guns and rifles and billions of ammunition cartridges rolled off American production lines. New industries like synthetic rubber flourished, and old ones were rejuvenated.

Women were vital for the war efforts because they filled the factory jobs that were vacated when the men left for the war. Better wages and learning new skills were important to many women. Thousands of women packed away their dresses and began wearing work pants and made a huge impact in the war effort.



Many Tennessee entertainers were busy entertaining people at home and entertaining soldiers in Europe and in the Pacific. Dinah Shore, from Winchester, Tennessee, graduated from Vanderbilt University, moved to New York City, and traveled around the world entertaining the troops. Shore soon became a celebrity and was the highest paid female entertainer of her time.

Hollywood Canteen with Dinah Shore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrV55EvjCaA>



Country music entertainers - Roy Acuff and Minnie Pearl took time off from the Grand Ole Opry and began singing for and entertaining the troops. Even the movie industry became involved in the war effort.

YouTube - Minnie Pearl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLB4bVMCN0w>

Roy Acuff - Tennessee Waltz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QM5HJuENryQlist=PL3ACBDD282538FC55>

Many years after the USO shows, but still entertaining!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0gKOjpFi2Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PRnjCHffHM>

Cornelia Fort - Tennessee Heroine

YouTube - Cornelia Fort

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVrnw1NB3y0>



Read about Cornelia Fort from www.tnhistoryforkids.com

http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/people/cornelia_fort





Cornelia Fort was born in Tennessee in 1919. Her family was one of the wealthiest families in Nashville, Tennessee. Cornelia attended Sarah Lawrence College in New York and learned about the events that had taken place in Europe during the 1930s. Cornelia began writing articles for her school newspapers about the rise of Fascism in Europe.

After Cornelia graduated from college, she began taking flying lessons. She earned her pilot's license and then became Tennessee's first female flight instructor.

In 1941, she left for Hawaii to teach flying. In fact, she was giving a flying lesson when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The Japanese flew past her during the attack and Cornelia was barely able to safely land her plane. She flew through machine gun fire and soon after that she joined the war effort. Cornelia joined the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). Their job was to fly planes or war equipment from base to base.

Sadly, on March 21, 1943, Cornelia's plane was in a midair collisions and Fort was killed. Cornelia Fort was the first female pilot to die in the line of duty in World War II and the first Tennessee servicewoman to die in the war.



Movies were made that featured the Americans winning over the Germans and Japanese enemies. Some of the famous movies of the war years were films like **Casablanca**, **The Story of G.I. Joe**, and **Sergeant York**. **Sergeant York** was a movie about the Tennessee hero of World War I.

At tremendous cost to the American taxpayer, the American people vanquished two evils: the Axis Powers and the Great Depression.

The Women's Army Corps

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps numbered more than 150,000 and performed duties that ranged from forecasting the weather to working with sheet metal during World War II, as the many photographs at this website illustrate. Although inequalities were evident in pay and status between male and female soldiers, the WAAC signaled the first exodus of many women from the home.

Private Art: WWII Letters To and From Home

Private Arthur Pranger served in the U.S. Army for two and a half years during World War II. Like most soldiers, he wrote home to tell his family of his European tour of duty. Now "Private Art" has created his own website, pulling together all of his pictures and letters detailing his times in the war. Beautifully designed and stocked with images

and information, this is a site to see!

[Produce for Victory](#)

The Smithsonian Institution has put together a virtual exhibition of wartime posters found throughout the American homefront during the Second World War. These posters were used to motivate workers to increase their production at work and in the home to create and conserve supplies for their soldiers overseas. The posters here are presented in color, each explained in a short excerpt.

If the spirit of America were killed, even though the Nation's body and mind, constricted in an alien world, lived on, the America we know would have perished. -Franklin Delano Roosevelt, from his third Inaugural Address