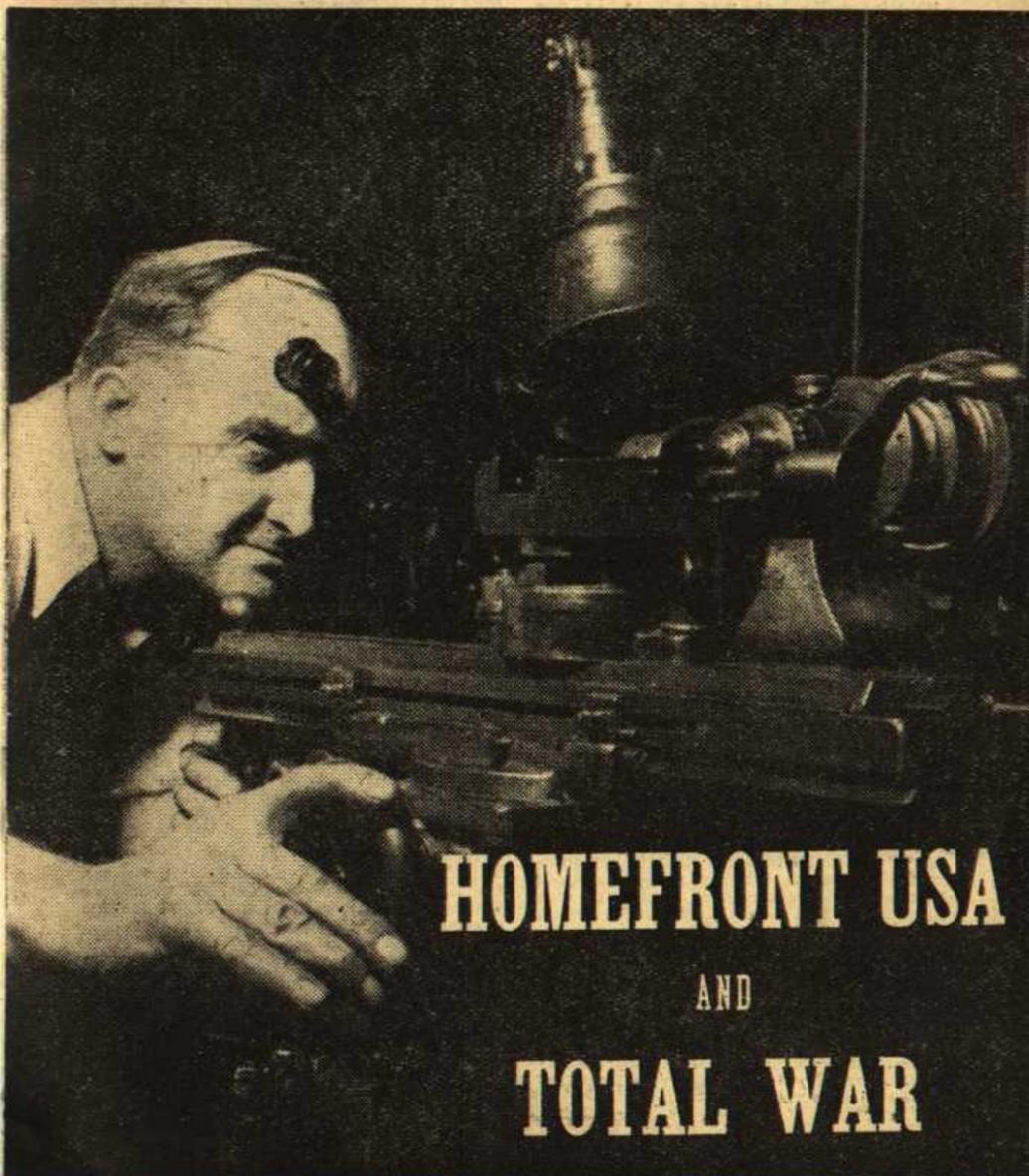


Vol. III, No. 9
17 March 1945



ARMY TALKS

RESTRICTED
ETO - U.S. ARMY



HOMEFront USA

AND

TOTAL WAR



"Much excitement was caused in our command post when a line captain reported 25 Tiger tanks headed our way. Questioned, he admitted he had seen one tank and had assumed there were at least 25 since they usually attacked in mass. Investigation showed there was just one tank and that between us and it was a road block covered by a mine field, bazooka teams and three tank destroyers."



"The enemy often splits his night patrols into two groups, one to harass our front lines with machine gun fire, while the other penetrates into our position. The infiltrating group tries to determine our exact positions from our fire against the first group."

"When road junctions were mined, possible by-passes often were mined also. It was usually faster to clear the road than to prepare a by-pass."

"A three day defense of a main line of resistance against heavy attack taught our battalion these rules:

a. "Keep at least one day's emergency food and water at all defensive positions.

b. "Locate battalion aid stations away from command posts. Jerry knows our habit of aid stations close to command posts.

c. "Clear all civilians out of small towns near the lines. They give information to the enemy. Some act as snipers.

d. "Don't fail to have a battalion command post guard. We used a 15-man squad attached to headquarters company and commanded by S-1. They were armed with light machine guns, submachine guns, M-1s, carbines, grenades and bazookas. Without this security our command post would have been wiped out."

"When constructing by-passes at narrow or blown bridges, we find we must continue to use mine detectors as the bulldozer excavates. Jerry lays mines three to four feet deep in such locations."

Care of rifle ammunition. "When crawling in the mud and snow or jumping in and out of foxholes the ammunition in your cartridge belt gets caked with snow and mud which will cause stoppages. Be sure to clean all cartridges and clips before jumping off on a mission."

Grenade pouch. "A Browning automatic rifle magazine pouch hooked to the cartridge belt provides a convenient place to carry three grenades."

TNT for mouseholing. "When we attacked Teltengen each man had been issued a half-pound of TNT. This was used to blow holes through walls of buildings so we could advance without going into the streets which were swept by enemy fire."

Bazooka fire from indoors. "The belief that it is dangerous to fire a bazooka from a room is incorrect. I fired at least ten rounds from a room about 8' x 12' which was filled with straw and there was no fire."

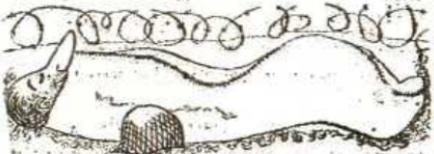
Phosphorus bazooka shell. "The white phosphorus bazooka rocket is a honey for clearing haystacks. The Germans hide everything from riflemen and machine gun crews to tanks in haystacks. One white phosphorus bazooka round fires the stack and brings them out."



"Recently an American wire sergeant and his crew of five were checking a wire line when they came upon an American lieutenant with a telephone tapped into one of the battalion wire lines. When questioned, the lieutenant said he was from a unit on the right — which he named — and was trying to find his position. The explanation was accepted and the crew then left with the lieutenant still listening on the wire. A short time later a cut in the wire was found at that same location. Further check revealed that no officers of the unit on the right had been in that vicinity."

"We have obtained excellent results against buildings and personnel by removing the smoke compound from the HC shell and refilling it with flame thrower fuel. The fuze fires the fuel and the explosion throws the flame to the rear."

Keep your nose out of your sleeping bag at night. Moisture breathed out will dampen the bag and make it colder. If your face gets cold, cover it with a flannel shirt or some other article of clothing.



ARMY TALKS



TOTAL war is a new kind of war, differing from all the 967 important wars fought in the western world alone during the past 25 centuries. As the weapons of war changed, so the nature of war changed. It has become so complex that a shelf 200 miles long would be required to hold all the books written in an attempt to interpret and report just one of the conflicts — World War I. Reading at a speed of a page per minute, a person would need 5,000 years — until A.D. 6945 — to read through the documentary mileage written about the last war.

Primitive wars were fought by groups of savages who used fists, fingernails and clubs as weapons.

When man developed from a primitive being into a civilized one — his weapons of war became more deadly.

For the most part, civilized man before the seventeenth century fought

Soldiers in the ETO have received a one-sided picture of the homefront because newspapers and radio are concerned with what is unusual or sensational. No one pretends that the homefront record is perfect. At the same time, no one, Hitler and Hirohito least of all, can sneeze at what the homefront has done. In this issue "Army Talks" presents the other side of the picture — the good side.

limited wars — armies were small, loss of life was low, battles were short, and the effect of the war on society was slight. The Roman Legions were chiefly professional soldiers. Although the word "legion" has come to mean "a great many," the size of the Roman armies was not large. A professional army of about 300,000 men controlled the entire Mediterranean

world for nearly 800 years. Most citizens were unarmed and the people at home were little affected, except by the outcome of battles.

In the early Middle Ages, armies of serfs and vassals or mercenaries formed by feudal knights were still small and the wars were usually little wars which did not greatly disturb the lives of many people. Some of the greatest battles of the Middle Ages were fought with only a few thousand men. William the Conqueror had only 10,000 men at the famous Battle of Hastings in 1066.

The great religious wars of the 17th Century differed from the struggles of petty kings. Men and women were roused to savagery by fanatical devotion. Great masses of people came to believe it a sacred duty to exterminate their enemies in order to preserve true religion. Some historians estimate that three-fourths of the population of Germany were wiped out in the course of the Thirty Years War. Large parts of Europe were devastated.

Industrial progress gave birth to a new form of warfare — total war. Automotive transport, fast ships, airplanes and radios mean that wars can no longer be confined to small areas. When knighthood was in flower, a military objective was a castle. In total war, a military objective becomes an entire nation. Large centers of production behind the enemy's line are second only in importance to his frontline divisions. The purpose of total war is the total annihilation of the armed forces of the enemy — by overcoming his entire will to resist.

From the 12th Century to the 20th Century, the size of armies has increased more than 52 times. From our own Revolution to the present, our rate is 469 times. General George Washington's forces were

built around a nucleus of 16,000 men. The paper strength of the United States Army during the war of 1812 was 35,000 although the actual strength was scarcely more than a third that number. The North mobilized about two and a half million men to oppose the South's one million during the war between the States. The Army in World War II numbers seven and a half million soldiers.

National armies swelled from a few hundred thousand men under arms, to eight and ten million men. Total casualties, according to authoritative statistical studies, increased 748 times.

Large modern armies in combat cannot live and be supplied off the land. Industries which once produced automobiles have to furnish tanks and jeeps. Bombsights instead of box-cameras flow from factories. Lingerie makers turn out barracks bags.

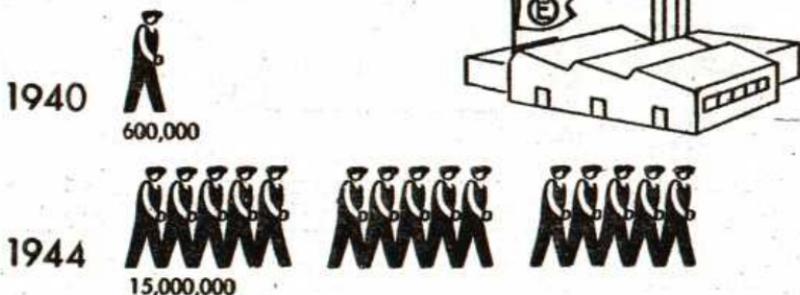
SWORDS AND PLOWSHARES

Modern war is fought with guns, tanks, planes, factories, plows, ideas, words, money and work. Every man, woman and child must play a part in one capacity or another. President Roosevelt stated 29 July 1943, "The longer this war goes on, the clearer it becomes that no one can draw a blue pencil down the middle of the page and call one side the 'fighting front' and the other side the 'home front' — for the two of them are tied together."

The home front is not Hollywood or Times Square or the home town hot spot. It is 126,000,000 human beings, civilians, some good, some not so good, but all Americans, all having close ties with men overseas. It is people who sit in an office all day and pound a typewriter; grimy men who go down the shaft into a deep coal mine; wrinkled farmers

OUR LABOR FORCE

WAR WORKERS (DIRECT AND INDIRECT)



PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION

who milk the cows in the morning darkness; motherly women who keep the house clean, do the cooking, send the kids to school, and go to the movies once a week; girls who do man-sized jobs in aircraft factories that sprawl over fields where there was nothing but wheat three years ago.

The homefront is people who gave enough blood to supply fighting fronts with 100,000 pints every week of 1944. It is 11,000,000 men and women performing voluntary part-time work in the Red Cross and U.S.O. It is girls, 145,000 of them, who took training as Nurses Aids, who follow strict, regular schedules in disagreeable jobs, and receive no pay. It is housewives, who last year rolled 961,300,000 bandages and dressings and made up 4,178,000 kit bags for men going overseas.

The homefront is highlighted by men like Nicholas Giastras of Pomona, California, who put his entire life savings of 800 dollars into orchids and gave one free to each war bond purchaser. Giastras sold 10,000 dollars' worth of bonds. That kind of spirit led the American

people to oversubscribe each of the six war bond drives.

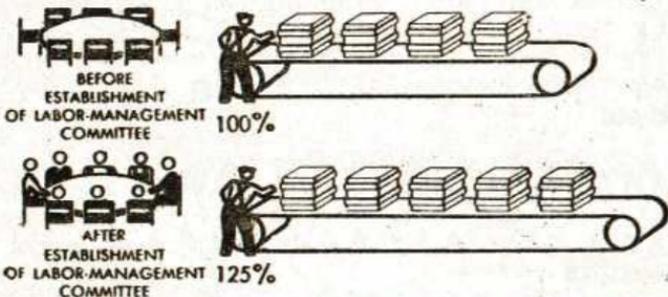
The homefront is the farmers of the United States who produced 28% more food in 1944 than in any year before we went to war and did it with a million fewer workers. Mrs Edith Stopenbeck of Mooresmill, N.Y., mother of ten children, is one of those farmers. She was cited by the state of N.Y. because in six months she increased the milk production of her 24-cow dairy farm 50%. Last year American farmers produced 3,228,361,000 bushels of corn as compared with an average annual production of 2,369,284,000 bushels before the war.

The home front is labor. "Labor" is no different from other Americans. The working people of the United States are the people next door. They are sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, sweethearts and friends of soldiers. The champion woman welder is a Mississippi farm girl. In the shipyards and ordnance plants are many workers who came from offices, farms and kitchens and expect to return to them after the war.

OUR LABOR FORCE

INCREASED PRODUCTION THROUGH LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRODUCTION OUTPUT OF BUFFALO ARMS CORPORATION



Buffalo Arms Corporation is only one of 4,500 war plants which have Labor-Management Committees.

PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION

There is no such thing in America as "Labor" if that means a group separated from the rest of the population on the ground that its interest, its welfare, and its future are different.

The homefront is business — a part of the All-American team that jumped production of munitions in the United States from eight billion dollars in 1941 to 31 billion dollars the next year; to 57 billion in 1943, to more than 63 billion in 1944.

To set business against labor and to divide the citizen in uniform from the citizen in overalls has long been an objective of German and Japanese propaganda. The enemy's attempt to stir up national disunity in America is a great deal more than persuading people to believe something that isn't true. It is a technique that works below the surface of the mind and warps men's emotions with fantasies and fears. These can break up a man and a nation.

One of Hitler's first acts on coming into power was to crush labor unions, and throw their leaders into concentration camps. Business likewise was hamstrung — except for a small group of large industrialists who

financed the Nazis. Hitler's propagandists flood us with millions of words to create the same hatred of business and labor in America.

Homefront USA refused Hitler's bait. Early in 1942, the War Production Board launched a voluntary plan to increase war production by forming joint committees of management and labor. Such committees are now operating in about 5,000 plants, not just discussing wages and grievances but mainly pooling their ideas to increase production.

YANKEE INGENUITY

Both groups suggest ways to improve quality and efficiency of work. They suggest methods to conserve and salvage vital materials, to prolong the life of tools and equipment, improve safety records, carry on campaigns against absenteeism, promote War Bond, Red Cross and blood donation drives.

During the past year, American workers turned in over 1,000,000 suggestions through the Labor-Management Committees. All new ideas are promptly passed around among other plants doing the same

kind of work. Plants don't hog inventions for increased war production. Millions of man-hours and millions of pounds of critical material have been saved as a result of the suggestions received.

At the Oregon and Washington Kaiser shipyards, during 1943, workers submitted 10,623 suggestions, over 1,800 of which were accepted. The ideas resulted in a saving of 1,823,278 man-hours and a total saving in manpower and material valued at \$2,850,000,000. A ten-point program developed by the Labor-Management Committee of the Buffalo Arms Corporation, Buffalo, New York, stepped up production in that plant by 25% without the addition of a single worker.

WRENCHES AND SPAGHETTI

Max Harris thought 4 hours was too long for a certain job so he invented a wrench which did the work in 15 minutes. William Hayes, a young electronics engineer in New Jersey, discovered a way to cut 75% off the time required to assemble electronic tubes for war

communications. A tiny piece of spaghetti is used to support the filament while it is being welded. Formerly steel was used but it was difficult to remove. The spaghetti can be turned out in a flash.

Statistics, like chloroform, put people to sleep, but facts like money — *talk*. What are the facts about America's 1944 production record?

The War and Navy Departments set very high schedules for 1944 — 67 billion dollars in all. According to latest reports, Homefront USA was on schedule or ahead of schedule in aircraft, ships and guns. Production of ammunition was about 7% below schedule, not because anybody had sabotaged his job, but because battle experience had necessitated changes in types of weapons.

Electronics production was a little behind schedule not because America was lazy but because America was too smart. Inventors improved models so rapidly that a device was often obsolete before it left the designing board. The overall 1944 schedule, despite design changes, was met by better than 95%.

Less than four years ago the

OUR PRODUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS

GROSS PRODUCTION



CIVILIAN PRODUCTION



WAR PRODUCTION

1940



97% | 3%

1944



\$193 BILLION

55% | 45%

Each symbol represents 10 billion dollars worth of production

PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION

President asked for a production of 50,000 airplanes a year. Many persons, including some experts, thought this rate impossible. Since then requirements have been upped, and, though they were behind schedule, American factories delivered 96,369 planes of all types in 1944. Since 1 July 1940, the United States has turned out the Axis-staggering total of 253,256 planes.

The U.S.A. was left with hardly a six-month's stockpile of rubber for wartime needs when the Japs captured the source of 90% of our crude rubber in the Dutch and British East Indies. As things stood, we were absolutely unable to fight a modern war. "If we fail to secure quickly a large new rubber supply our war effort and our domestic economy will both collapse," said Chairman Bernard Baruch of the Special Rubber Committee in September, 1942.

Less than two years later we were producing synthetic rubber at the rate of 836,000 tons a year. America had taken one straight look at impending disaster and decided to do something about it. She did. American brains and labor in partnership are now annually producing synthetically 85% as much rubber as the entire world used before the war. This does not mean the rubber shortage is completely licked; war needs are much greater than peace time requirements. But the record is impressive.

HIGHBALLING FREIGHT

American railroads are today moving two and a half times as much freight as they did in 1939, and are carrying four and a half times as many passengers. Compared with the peak of World War I, they are hauling this load with 25% fewer cars, 30% fewer locomotives and 500,000 fewer men. There are only

one-third as many accidents as there were in 1918. It's not done with mirrors. It's done with skill, and precise devotion to the job. Would you know, offhand, how to keep trains running continuously in opposite directions on a single-track railway line? It's being done in America every day during the war. Train dispatchers time their trains so that they "meet" each other on double-tracked passing sections (every 20 miles or so) without having to stop.

PLASTIC PROGRESS

After Pearl Harbor, when every pound of certain metals seemed worth its weight in platinum, American plastics went to war. Buttons for both utility and insignia purpose are now made of plastics, saving 365,000 pounds of brass for ordnance. Plastic canteens have saved aluminum for airplanes. Plastic signal-firing guns have saved aluminum and rubber. Plastics are nowadays in almost every part of an airplane, saving metal, decreasing weight, releasing manpower. Bomb-recorder frames of plastic have saved 300 tons of vital aluminum. Plastic ammunition boxes in wings of fighter planes, formerly made of stainless steel, have saved for each plane: 50 pounds of steel, 45% of over-all production costs on this operation, and 18 men and machine hours.

When the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor we had 8,000,000 tons of merchant shipping afloat. The next year Americans built 1,000,000 tons, the year after that 19,000,000 tons, and 18,000,000 tons in 1944.

Nevertheless, sufficient shipping is still a problem. An initial seven tons of material and equipment for every fighting man abroad and an additional one or more tons of upkeep must be delivered overseas every month the war lasts. Further

OUR PRODUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS

MUNITION PRODUCTION

1940



7 UNITS



1944



115 UNITS

PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION

strain is placed on available shipping because of steadily increased expenditure of ammunition. Due to overseas needs in October 1944 the estimate of required production was raised ten percent. One month later it increased another ten percent.

SHOOTING SHORTAGES

Large-scale battles showed that America's immense output of munitions was not enough. At times, sections of the army begged and borrowed to keep the machine in high gear, turned German artillery on its former owners, borrowed shells from the Navy and altered them in battle to fit their guns.

Shipping space has been further taxed by the increasing number of men going overseas. As late as October 1944, the army was shipping more men to Europe than in any previous month of the war.*

* According to the War Department, "Army policy is to send all able-bodied men overseas as rapidly as possible. More than fifty percent of all men who have been inducted are now overseas. Within six months, three-fourths of all men who have been inducted will be overseas." Most soldiers stationed in the States will be either returned limited service personnel, veterans, or men still in training.

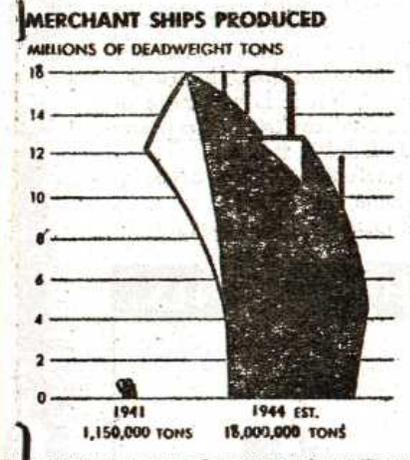
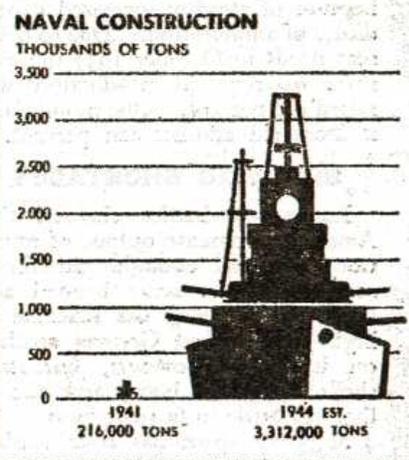
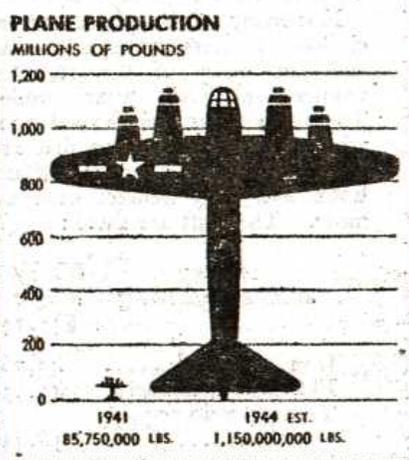
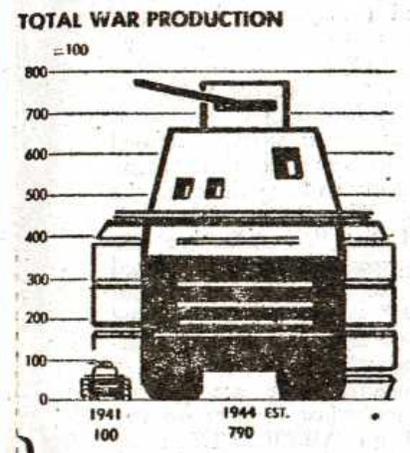
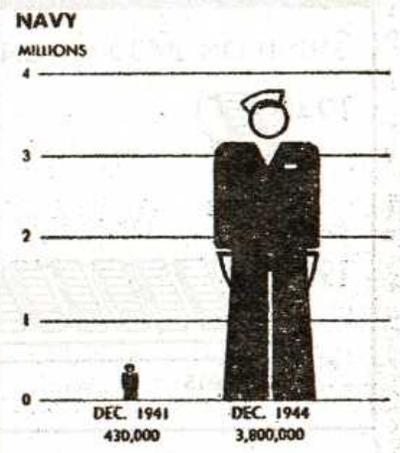
Is Everybody Getting Rich ?

Not many of the 36,000,000 male civilian workers wear silk shirts, and not many of the 18,000,000 women workers wear orchids. There are many uninformed people who have the impression that every riveter makes a hundred dollars a week and that welders earn even more. The facts are these :

<i>Average of all manufacturing</i>	<i>Weekly Wage :</i>
	\$43.14
Iron and steel.....	47.76
Electrical machinery.	45.53
Transportation equip- ment	56.44
Nonferrous metals..	47.20
Textile mill products.	27.61
Apparel.....	26.97
Leather	29.83
Food	35.24
Tobacco	26.32
Printing, publishing.	40.25
Rubber	45.94

The average salaries or wages of men and women in all non-agri-

THE GROWTH OF AMERICAN MIGHT



THE HOMEFRONT IS WINNING TOO

Despite America's unparalleled war production, shortages exist. In the early days of the war Sherman tanks, destroyer escorts, high octane gasoline and landing craft were supercritical "must-must" items. In each case the bottlenecks were broken. Today other critical items have taken their place: heavy artillery ammunition, heavy artillery, heavy trucks, naval ordnance, tires, tactical field wire and cotton duck for tents. Reason? There is never a simple answer to account for any shortage — dozens of factors are responsible. The reasons for present shortages include: stepped-up Army requirements resulting from battle experience, shortage of workers trained in certain skills, lack of tooling facilities, lack of rubber, the Pacific time-table — which has been advanced by months.

cultural industries, including overtime pay, were:

Year	Average Annual Earnings	Weekly Earnings
1939	\$1,306	\$25
1941	1,457	28
1943	1,871	36

Wages have risen. Prices have risen, too. Clothing for which a man paid \$100 during 1939, cost \$136 in March 1944. Food prices jumped almost 45% in the large cities during the same period of time. Heavier taxes, higher living costs leave the average worker with little more real spending money than he had in 1941.

Absenteeism and Strikes

Absenteeism is a problem. Those who have looked into it carefully have found that there is usually a bonafide reason for large-scale absenteeism. When the fault is corrected, absenteeism ends. For instance, in one plant the women on the night shift were paid on Saturday and were often absent on Monday. The slanderous inference was drawn by some that they drank up their pay on Sunday, and slept it off on Monday. Investigation proved they were absent from work on Monday in order to deposit pay checks. The banks were asked to remain open all Saturday night. Absenteeism took a sharp drop on Monday.

Much absenteeism is due to urgent need to take care of the family. Many of the 18,000,000 women workers have children to look after.

Most Labor-Management committees get very tough with absentees unless they have A-1 excuses.

There are strikes. They always make news. *The unusual is news.* Remember old Joseph Doakes at home? He was eighty, and lived a quiet useful life. One day he died of old age. The hometown paper

ran an obituary on him because he was a solid citizen. He was *news* for the first time in his life, because he did something unusual (for him) — something he never did before. Nobody on the hometown paper ever thought it would be a good idea to run a news story every day throughout Joseph's life, with a headline reading:

DOAKES STILL ALIVE

That wouldn't be news. It would be a joke. Likewise, it is not news to run a headline:

54,000,000 PEOPLE WORKED TODAY

What makes news is the *unusual*. A strike is unusual in the United States during war. America has done a war production job unparalleled in history. That job could not have been done if strikes and absenteeism had been frequent.

According to the Department of Labor, the facts are these: because of strikes, *only one working day has been lost out of every 1,000 days worked*. One tenth of one percent of the total

labor time available in the United States has been lost through strikes. Labor and management have held to their no-strike no-lockout pledge, 99 and 9/10%! The overwhelming majority of strikes were the so-called "unauthorized" or "wild-cat" strikes, where workers refused to work in spite of their union leaders' efforts to keep them on the job. The War Labor Board is convinced that "...collective bargaining agreements have prevented abuse of the no-strike, no lockout agreement," and has "removed obstacles to high morale and maximum production."

Nevertheless, there are persons who will strike just as there are men who will go AWOL. There are always a few GFUs, big dealers, goldbricks, those who will play the angles — there are some in the Army; there are some at home. The true picture of the home front is not the few bad eggs, but it is a picture of 126,000,000 civilian Americans doing their job and doing it well.

The Homefront still has some of the "business as usual" attitude. Several thousand miles separate the

OUR PRODUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS

MERCHANT SHIP TONNAGE PRODUCTION PER YEAR

1
MILL.
TONS



1941

8
MILL.
TONS



1942

19
MILL.
TONS



1943

18
MILL.
TONS



1944

PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION

U.S.A. from the nearest fighting. People cannot know what is really behind a communique that reads ". . . and only light patrol action on the V— sector yesterday." Perhaps if they were bombed, if rations were cut down to European size, if a few V1s and V2s were heaved in their direction they would understand better what war is all about and the no-strike, no lock-out record would be 100% instead of 99.9%.

(With production on its present scale, one tenth of one percent means a lot of guns and ammunition and supplies.) The point is: on whose children, wives, parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends would these bombs fall?

No one argues that life at home is anything like life in a foxhole — the two cannot be compared in the same breath. But neither is life at home heaven. The war mushroomed many small towns into boom cities. There is not enough housing for the people who flocked to the new plants that have been built. (16,000,000 people have changed their home addresses.) Thousands live in trailers. More thousands live in tents and shacks to stay on the job. "Hot sheets" is a phrase used to describe the beds where people sleep in three eight-hour shifts. It is like a triple-loaded troop ship; the beds are never empty.

Homefront USA has its casualties, too. During the 28 months from 7 December 1941 to 15 April 1944, 102,000 were killed and 350,000 permanently disabled in industry. During the 36 months following 7 December 1941, 102,961 servicemen were killed and 319,933 wounded.

It would help end complacency if it were possible to release all the facts about action on all fronts. But men in the Army know that most of the time it isn't common sense to release all the statistics about casualties necessary to take every town. The enemy would give plenty to know those very facts. Military security

prevents printing many things. As a result, the general trend of war reports by US newspapers and radio up to a few weeks ago was optimistic.

During the summer and autumn of 1944,

the spirit of optimism grew. There was a lot of talk about reconverting industry from war to peace; rationing was relaxed.

But no such mood existed by Christmas. Surprised and not a little startled by the revelation of the power still remaining to the Germans to start a counter-offensive, opinions changed overnight. There is to be no expansion of civilian production until VE Day. Production schedules for war materials were revised upwards. Stocks of raw materials are again being built. Shipyard forces which were due for reductions were maintained at full strength. Rationing controls were tightened.

Production records are being broken daily in the United States. The cooperative efforts of free people have triumphed over the workers of Fascist Germany and Japan.

That fact has significant meaning for all Americans: If carried over into peace, the ability of American factories to produce and the ability of our people to work together can have equally startling results.

The sun-bathers and playboys — the goldbricks of civilian life — are still with us. War doesn't change them much, and never has. We don't lose anything because of such people. . . there isn't a whole lot they could contribute anyhow. What makes a difference is that the honest-to-goodness people who can produce are producing.

TEAMWORK



A spitfire Wing of Fighter Command operating from a southeast England airfield includes British, Canadian, Dutch, French, Belgian, Czech, West Indian, Rhodesian and US pilots.

★ ★ ★

During the first 11 months of 1944 Canada exported war material valued in excess of \$2,538,000,000. The Red Army is using tanks built in Montreal. Chinese soldiers are fighting with Toronto-made Bren guns. US pilots are flying Curtiss Helldivers manufactured in Fort William. Canadian wheat, salmon and cod are helping to feed Britain.

★ ★ ★

Australia (population approximately 7,250,000) has seven out of every ten men between the ages of 18 and 35 in the Services.

★ ★ ★

It is estimated that Japan's supply of aviation oil has recently been cut as much as 75 percent. The job was done by British carrier-based planes in a series of blows against the Japanese-controlled refineries in Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies.

★ ★ ★

Hospital wards in Birmingham General Hospital (Southern California) have been turned into machine shops, and wounded of World War II are helping produce parts for Black Widow fighters.

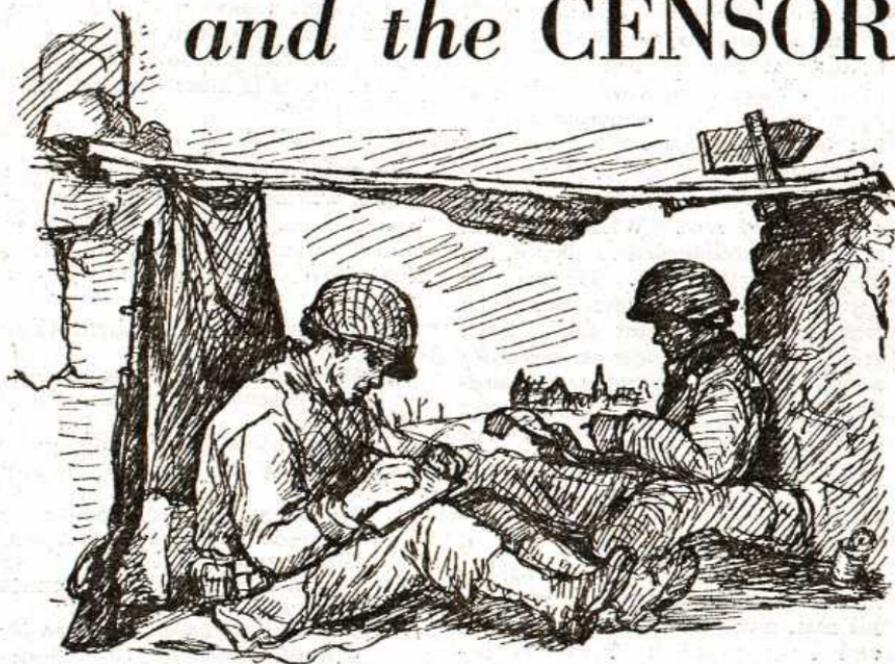
★ ★ ★

Antwerp, most important Allied port in the ETO, is jointly operated by British and US forces. The two armies are working side by side from the top down to dock guards and AA gunners. In addition thousands of Belgian civilians are serving as skilled stevedores and unskilled laborers.





YOU, YOUR MAIL *and the* CENSOR



Two frequently voiced gripes about mail are speed of service and censorship. Here are some of the answers:—

1. *Homebound mail is faster than mail sent to a theater of war.* Your families and friends in the US do not change their addresses very often; the postman knows where to find them. You, on the other hand, have probably had six addresses in the last six months, possibly more. You may even have changed units

several times. Every time you move, your mail has to be routed through a locator or directory service.

2. *Mail posted at regular intervals does not reach you at regular intervals.* Mail for overseas delivery must await convoy departures sometimes as long as two weeks. During the waiting period mail piles up. If extra plane space develops — and it sometimes does — some bags are dispatched by air. In any event your incoming mail will seldom arrive

in the exact sequence that it was mailed.

3. *Air mail sometimes travels very slowly.* ALL air mail does not go by plane. When a shortage of plane space develops, part of the mail remains at the airport. The older mail in this backlog goes out first, but only occasionally is enough space available to fly all the backlog plus the additions of daily mail. When the backlog gets so large that holding it for air delivery would mean greater delay than sending it by ship, it usually is placed aboard the first fast boat headed in your direction.

4. *Delivery of mail to reinforcements is very slow.* When a soldier arrives at a reinforcement depot, his stay is usually short. He may be moved four or five times before he reaches his permanent unit. Each change means locator or directory service, forwarding and re-forwarding. When he arrives at his unit he should immediately fill out Change of Address cards and mail them. It shortens the delay before normal delivery can be expected.

5. *Soldiers in hospitals fail to receive their mail.* When a soldier is evacuated to a hospital, most of his mail must have directory service and be forwarded. Transfers between hospitals further delay mail delivery.

One method by which soldiers can help speed mail delivery is by use of V-Mail. ALL V-Mail ALWAYS goes by air. If the soldier or his folks should receive V-Mail in the original form on which it was written, that fact does not mean it traveled by surface ship. In rare instances air cargo space is abundant, original V-Mail letters are loaded aboard and the time which ordinarily would be spent in micro-filming them is saved.

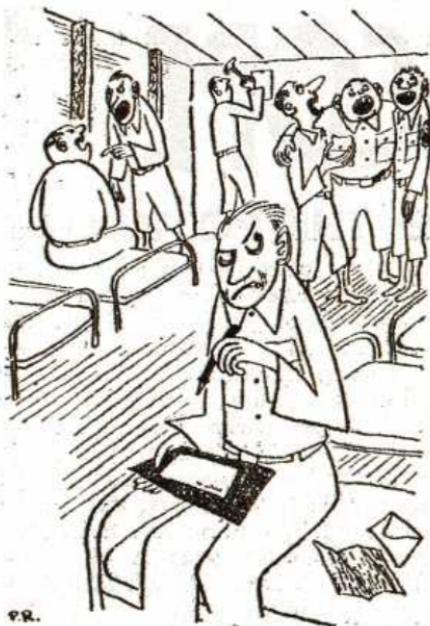
The number of soldiers overseas and the vital need for battle supplies means that air cargo travels on priority. Weather also is a factor. For instance, 98% of all air mail went by air in September of last year; in November only 75% was carried by plane. V-Mail, in micro-film strips, takes up very little room, frees more space for other supplies.

Although temporary local shortages may develop, Army Postal Service states that the supply of blank V-Mail forms is more than adequate in this theater.

* * * * *

In order not to waste time in the actual writing of letters, knowing what you can't say is a help. Twenty taboos, based on ETO circulars, should be borne in mind:

1. No details of movement to or from this theater.
2. No military armament, equipment or supplies of any type.
3. No strength, efficiency, training or morale of any outfit.
4. No location, movements or engagements. This includes billets and hospitals.
5. No linking APO with exact geographical locations.
6. No signs used to identify organizations or their baggage.
7. No plans or guesses about military operations.
8. No details about enemy or Allied operations; or results of actions.
9. No use of roads, transport or communications.
10. No mention of individual casualties before families have been officially notified. This means not until 30 days after notice has gone forward from your unit.
11. No detailed weather reports.
12. No criticism or dirty cracks about our Allies.



FR.

13. No restricted Allied or US documents.
14. No enemy papers containing information about the enemy.
15. No codes, ciphers, or secret writing.
16. No games, puzzles, maps or blank paper.
17. No photographs or pictures showing these forbidden subjects.
18. No chain letters in any form.
19. No uncensored drawings, sketches, music manuscripts, or paintings.
20. No private diaries.

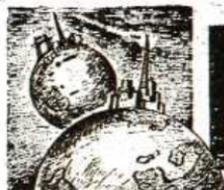
On first glance, this list might lead a soldier to the inference that the Army frowns on letter-writing. Such an inference would be the result of thinking too much about what *cannot* be written, rather than trying to figure out what *can*. Actually hundreds of incidents which can be described in homeward bound mail take place each day. A few suggestions:

Your friends, bull-sessions, non-specific battle stories, descriptions of the interior of your billet or fox-hole, customs of the country, local farming methods, clothes the natives wear, movies you have seen, news clippings (without any attached remarks which are more specific than the news itself), *Yank* feature stories, memories of home, letters from mutual friends, stories out of *Stars & Stripes* "Hashmarks" column, the general quality of the weather. Most important of all is to send plenty of love.

One word of caution: If you think the folks back home do not know or appreciate the rugged life of a soldier, or if you think they aren't buying enough War Bonds, by all means describe a few of the less pleasant duties of a soldier. But if you are close to an action or heavy fighting, and if you are feeling low, it is better not to write home for a few days. Even though you try to be completely optimistic in your letter, your emotional feelings will find their way into your words — and you will frighten the folks at home. Because they never know exactly where you are or what you are doing, they worry all the time, even when you are hundreds of miles from the front lines.

Basically the operation of censorship is often misunderstood. The soldier himself is forbidden to write certain things, and it is the censor's duty to see that no mistakes are made. The censor is the only man who stands between such mistakes and the enemy. If you are in a combat unit, the censor may have saved your life without you knowing it.

Two quick, final tips: write so that your letters can be easily read even in microfilm reduction; and do not carry that letter around in your pocket so long that it wears out. Mail it!



NEWSCOPE



MILITARY OBJECTIVE: THE PO VALLEY

Against stubborn German resistance and unbelievably bad weather, United Nations troops in Italy have pushed into the network of rivers and mountains blocking the approaches to the Po River Valley. (Present battle line shown on map.) Although the valley occupies only one-seventh of the total area of Italy, its agriculture and industry provide more than half the population with homes and jobs.

The Po river is strategically important because it is a considerable obstacle to the German supply system. Our air forces constantly hammer the bridges. Despite frantic repair work and the use of under water bridges, getting supplies across the Po represents a serious problem for German engineers.

The Po is one of the most difficult rivers to cross in Europe. It is about 400 miles long and after passing below Mantua has an average width of 450 yards. Great levees hold the Po on its course, but deposits of dirt made by the river are continually tending to raise the water level. Thus it is necessary to make corresponding increases in the height of the embankments. The river has been lifted so high that at Ferrara it flows on a level with the housetops.

The important cities of the Valley are located with reference to the routes through or over the surrounding mountains. Milan, Italy's greatest manufacturing city, commands the Simplon and St. Gotthard passes, both direct routes to Switzerland.

It is the chief railway junction and financial center of Italy with a population about the size of pre-war Detroit. Great factories produce armaments, munitions, aircraft, locomotives, radios, machine tools, textiles, and chemicals. Milan was one of Mussolini's first strongholds and there are doubtless many Fascist sympathizers in the city, though the strongest opposition to Fascism has come from the workers of Milan. Its patriots have sabotaged much of the German war effort.

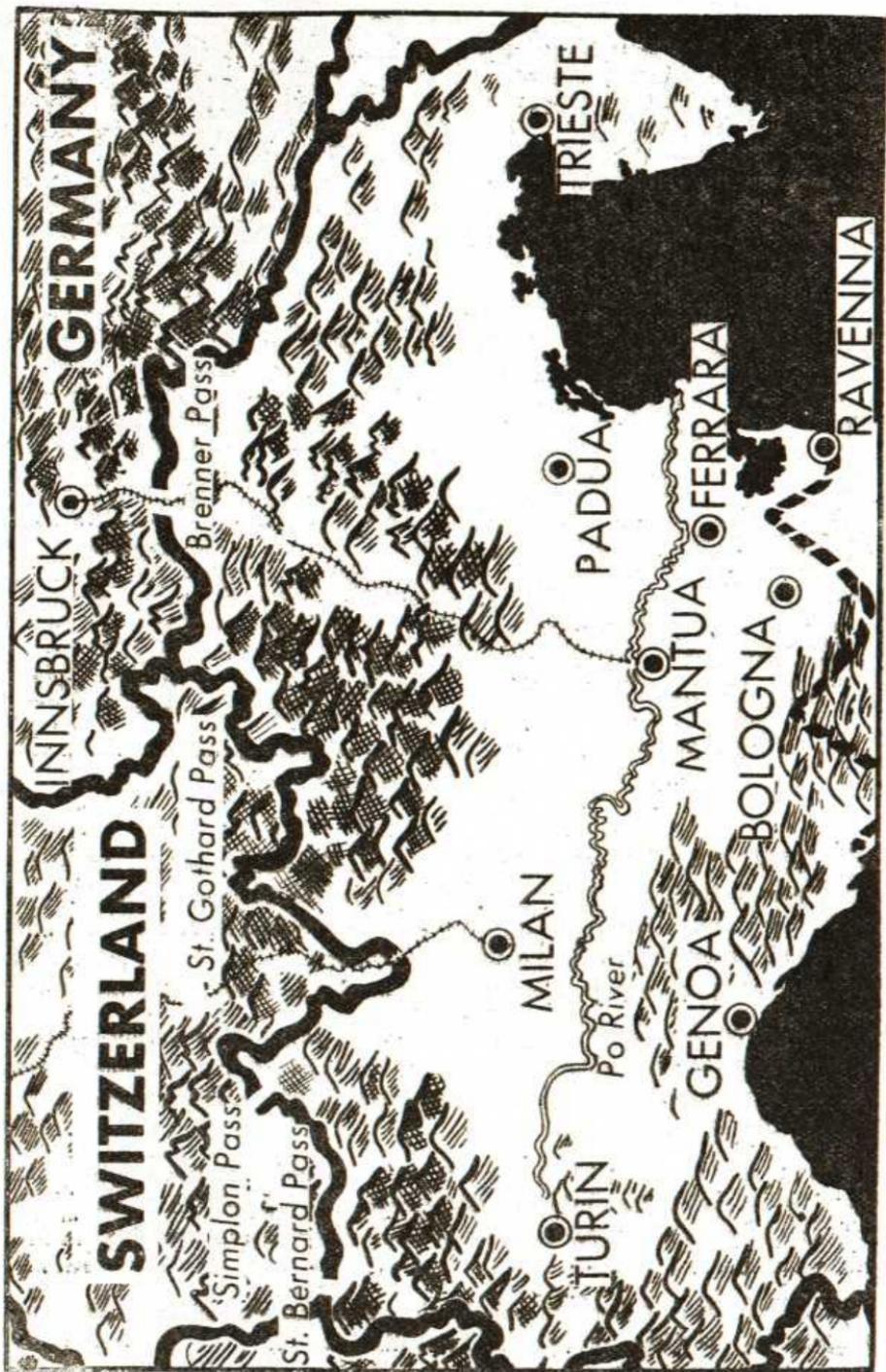
75 miles southwest on the direct route to France is Turin, Italy's second largest industrial center. Here are the vast FIAT works which produced 90% of Italy's automobiles and now turn out tanks, trucks and aircraft for the Nazis.

Verona lies at the foot of the Brenner Pass, shortest route to Germany. The Pass is open the year around and carries over 50% of all German military traffic into Italy. Even when operating at a fraction of its normal capacity, it is capable of supplying all the needs of Kesselring's forces in Italy.

Ferrara, surrounded by an old medieval wall, produces rubber and aluminium. Mantua, protected by shallow lakes and marshes, manufactures farm implements. Padua is the home of chemical, steel and iron industries. It is military objectives such as these, important sources of Hitler's strength, that are on the roads ahead of United Nations forces in Italy.

LISTEN : Tune in your American Forces Network for a dramatized version of the week's ARMY TALKS.
Time : 1030 Saturday, 17th March, 1945.

Printed for H.M. Stationery Office.



GERMANY

INNSBRUCK

Brenner Pass

St. Gothard Pass

Simplon Pass

St. Bernard Pass

SWITZERLAND

TRIESTE

PADUA

FERRARA

RAVENNA

MILAN

MANTUA

BOLOGNA

GENOA

Po River

TURIN



"Cpl Smithers believes in having the proper atmosphere for his discussion groups"

CHEWING the fat...batting the breeze...shooting the bull. American people have been doing it around cracker barrels and hot stoves for years. They're doing it now on the radio...in round table and town hall discussions. Throughout the country, citizens still gather to discuss local problems in town meetings...and still make their own laws.

You have this right in the Army too. Every unit is authorized one hour weekly for discussion *on Army training time*. You can't make laws. But you can learn facts and make better ideas...ideas which may become the laws of tomorrow.

Use these discussion hours to learn facts...to test your ideas against the facts, and against "the other man's viewpoint". If your ideas stand up, they can be put to work for the kind of community you want to live in when you get home.

See your CO or Information-Education officer about a discussion hour in your outfit. Tell him what you'd like to discuss.