

World War II On The Home Front

-by Gerald Reid

Emerging from the Great Depression, the United States became deeply involved in the second world war after an attack on Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands in 1941. Loved ones were taken away to a foreign land. Some of these people had likely never been out of Georgia. This story is not about the heroic men and women that went to war; this is a salute to those who stayed on the home front and kept the nation going.

Space is too short to do legitimate justice to all of the sacrifices people made during that period. We'll focus on one aspect — rationing. Gas, tires, coffee, sugar, shoes, fuel oil, meats, and butter were just some of the items rationed. Coupons were issued and would allow you to purchase an item, if it was available. To replace a tire, you had

to prove that your tire could not be repaired. This was done by getting validated by more than one tire dealer — if you had the gasoline to get to the dealers.

You were not allowed to detach the coupon from the book. The instructions mandated, “When buying gasoline, hand the book to the service station attendant.”

Times were hard, but people didn't complain. It was a generation of people who made their mark on the world. Tom Brokaw called them “the greatest generation”, but we already knew that. There will probably not be another generation like them.

If you're one of those who served this country either in the military or by making the necessary sacrifices at home, we're proud of you and thank you.



August 2003 - Mountain Peeks