

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

Teaching Utah with Primary Sources

Utah Studies Core Standards
UT Strand 3, Standard 3.2

Utah Women on the World War II Home Front

By Lisa Barr

Utah's role during World War II

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 brought the United States into World War II. The U.S military needed to quickly expand its installations to meet the demands of fighting in both the European and Pacific theaters. The government saw northern Utah as a prime location because its inland location made it less vulnerable to attacks. Moreover, there was plenty of open space, allowing for the expansion of existing bases such as Hill Field (now Hill Air Force Base) and the construction of new installations such as Kearns and Tooele Army depots. Northern Utah is also located equidistant to Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, therefore, its installations could easily transport goods to the Pacific coast through highways and railroad systems throughout the West.

Utah's military installations during the war included the Ogden Arsenal, Hill Field, Clearfield Naval Supply Depot, Utah General Depot, Tooele Army Depot, and Kearns Army Base and Depot. During World War II, Hill Field became the state's largest employer. It helped to revitalize Utah's economy after the Great Depression. Increased demand for military supplies eventually led to worker shortages at Utah's installations. As more men left to fight in the war, the U.S. War Department began to hire women for positions that were traditionally considered men's work.

Utah's Rosies

The World War II home front drastically changed women's labor as this was the first time many women worked outside of the home. Women who performed industrial labor were generally referred to as "Rosies," named after the government's "Rosie the Riveter" campaign to recruit women to work in factories and military installations. Utah women were eager to do their part as they felt it was their patriotic duty as Americans. Industrial wartime work paid higher wages which helped women support their families and increased the standard of living in rural communities.

Utah women held jobs as typists, receptionists, armed guards, drivers, ammunition inspectors, aircraft maintenance and repair, safety specialists,

About These Documents

Map: Military installations located in Utah during World War II.

Photographs: Images of Utah's Rosies at Kearns Army Depot, Hill Air Force Base, Tooele Army depot, and Manti's parachute companies are from the Utah State Historical Society's Classified Photograph Digital Collection.

Images of Utah Minute Women victory gardens and canning events are from *The Salt Lake Tribune* Negatives Digital Collection.

Oral Histories: These explore women's experiences with rationing and salvage programs and volunteering at the Bushnell hospital.

Utah Minute Women: This report by the U.S. War Department Production Board highlights the work of Utah Minute Women during the war.

Questions for Young Historians

How did women's work change during World War II?

How did women balance work and domestic life?

Describe the kinds of items Utahns salvaged. How were they used in the war effort?

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welders, and parachute and clothing manufacturers. By 1944, women made up thirty-seven percent of the Utah workforce.

There was public concern about women entering the workforce. People were worried about how women working would affect their femininity and potentially destabilize male patriarchal structures both in and outside of the home. Men were considered the breadwinners of their families and women working might disrupt traditional gender roles. Men also feared that women might not want leave their jobs when the war ended. Both men and women were concerned with how women working might negatively impact home life. Women had to juggle childcare and domestic work along with their new jobs. Communities worried about children being neglected and women putting work before domestic responsibilities.

Women learned to balance their work and home lives as they still had the same domestic responsibilities. Although the War Production Board asked women to fill much needed jobs, it also constantly reminded them not to sacrifice their home life in its monthly newsletters. Many women would trade off caring for each other's children while others were at work.

As the government recruited women for wartime jobs, it compared industrial work to domestic work. Jobs like sewing parachutes and pilot jackets were easy to associate with domesticity. Military installations also held dances, parades, and beauty contests such as "Sweethearts of the Depot" to promote femininity in the workforce.

Men who worked with women were surprised that they were better workers than they had initially expected. Some commented that women "had greater dexterity, were more patient, had greater enthusiasm and personal responsibility for their work, and were patriotic without cynicism." Women, however, still dealt with discrimination in the workplace. They were rarely promoted from entry level positions and had to fend off sexual harassment from male workers.

In addition to the military, private companies created new employment opportunities in rural communities which helped families recover from the Great Depression. The C.F Fauntleroy Parachute Company in Manti employed women from ages sixteen to forty years old to produce and repair individual, cargo, and bomb parachutes. Women over forty or who had physical disabilities organized the Independent Parachute Company of Utah as they wanted to do their part in the war effort. The Parachute Company would not hire older women because of potential insurance costs. The Independent Parachute Company worked in conjunction with the other plant, cutting and waxing the webbing of parachute packs. Women in rural communities were motivated to work mainly for the pay and patriotism. Work was also a cure for loneliness when their husbands, sons, nephews, and friends left to fight in the war. Many women put notes in the parachutes, writing their names, where they were from, and saying that they made the parachute for soldiers to arrive safely to their destinations.

Utah Minute Women

Thousands of women across the state participated in the Utah Minute Women program. They were part of a nationwide effort coordinated by the U.S. War Production Board. Minute Women collected paper, cans, hosiery, scrap metal, rubber, and household grease to be used in the war effort. Utah women used existing organizations such the PTA, women's clubs, and church groups to structure these programs. They also went door to door, made

For Further Exploration

Glen M. Leonard, "Military Installations," *History of Davis County*

John D. Barton, "The War Effort at Home," *History of Duchesne County*

Antonette Chambers Noble, "Utah's Rosies in the War," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 59, Spring 1991

Glen M. Leonard, "Women Workers and Housing Issues," *History of Davis County*

"Utah World War II Stories," KUED, University of Utah,
<https://www.kued.org/whatson/kued-productions/utah-world-war-ii-stories>

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radio announcements, and hung fliers to inform communities about how they could help. In announcements, Minute Women used quantifiable examples of how rationing and salvaging directly helped soldiers fighting in the war. For example, they advertised that 3 tin cans equaled 1 grenade, one can equaled a pair of binoculars, a week's worth of cans equaled a portable flame thrower, and a month of household cans equated to 3 machine guns. There were a total 32 county directors, 333 city chairwomen, and 8,000 Utah Minute Women who participated in the program from 1942 to 1945. Minute Women also commissioned 5,000 Boy and Girl Scout troops to volunteer as Paper Troopers to help collect paper in their neighborhoods for salvage drives.

Bushnell Hospital

The Bushnell Military Hospital opened in Brigham City in 1942 as a regional facility for wounded soldiers. Bushnell's staff specialized in amputations and facial reconstruction. The hospital had a psychiatric center to help soldiers cope with the trauma of being severely injured. Many women worked at Bushnell as nurses and aids. In addition, women served as hospital volunteers. Ogden's Dee Hospital came by bus once a week. Nurses from Salt Lake City, Provo, and Cedar City volunteered to work at Bushnell between 1942 and 1946. Older Red Cross women, known as the Red Cross Gray Ladies, mended patients' clothes, helped write letters home, read aloud, and went on shopping errands. They also prepared soldiers for life after the military by helping them earn high school diplomas, apply for college, or earn college credit.

Overall, socializing with patients was the most important way for volunteers to help at the hospital in keeping soldiers' morale up. Women from surrounding towns also volunteered their time to visit patients. The hospital staff would often hold social activities including dances and holiday celebrations to lift patients' spirits. Women from local LDS stakes would go to the dances and also held musical performances. Some would play cards and board games. The most important aspect of the community's volunteer work was to treat patients like normal people. Some women developed friendships or dated patients, had them over for dinner, invited them on family picnics, and a few couples even married.

Life After the War

World War II dramatically changed women's lives in Utah as it exposed them to the diverse groups of people who worked at military installations, factories, and the Bushnell hospital. Most women returned to domestic work because men needed jobs when they returned from war. After the war, local politicians and church leaders urged women to return home. Many were relieved to quit their jobs because they no longer had to juggle domestic and occupational work. Overall, men resumed working at Utah's military installations and manufacturing companies, however, some women remained in the workforce as typists, secretaries, and in sewing factories.

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STUDENT READING – Utah Women on the World War II Home Front

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 brought the United States into World War II. The U.S. needed to quickly expand its military industries to meet the demands of fighting in both Europe and the Pacific. Northern Utah was a prime location because distance from the ocean protected it from attacks. There was plenty of open space in Utah to expand bases and build of new ones. Northern Utah is also the same distance to Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, so the military could easily transport goods to these cities where they would be shipped overseas. These wartime industries helped to revitalize Utah's economy after the Great Depression. As men left to fight in the war, the U.S. War Department began to hire women for jobs that were traditionally considered men's work.

For many women, this was the first time they worked outside of the home. Women who worked in factories and on military bases were called "Rosies," named after the government's "Rosie the Riveter" campaign. These jobs paid high wages, which helped women support their families. Work was also a cure for loneliness when their husbands, sons, nephews, and friends left to fight in the war. Utah women held jobs as typists, receptionists, armed guards, drivers, ammunition inspectors, aircraft maintenance and repair, safety specialists, welders, and parachute and clothing manufacturers. By 1944, women made up thirty-seven percent of the Utah workforce.

But many people were worried about women entering the workforce. Men feared that women might not want leave their jobs when the war ended. Both men and women worried about how women working might negatively affect home life. Women had to juggle childcare and domestic work along with their new jobs. Many women would trade off caring for each other's children while others were at work.

Jobs like sewing parachutes and pilot jackets were easy to associate with domesticity. Men who worked with women were surprised that they were better workers than they expected. Some commented that women "were more patient and had greater enthusiasm and personal responsibility for their work." Women, however, still dealt with discrimination in the workplace.

Thousands of women across the state also participated in the Utah Minute Women program. Minute Women collected paper, cans, hosiery, scrap metal, rubber, and household grease to be used in the war effort. Minute Women showed how rationing and salvaging (recycling) helped soldiers fighting in the war: 3 recycled tin cans could make 1 grenade and a month of household cans could make to 3 machine guns.

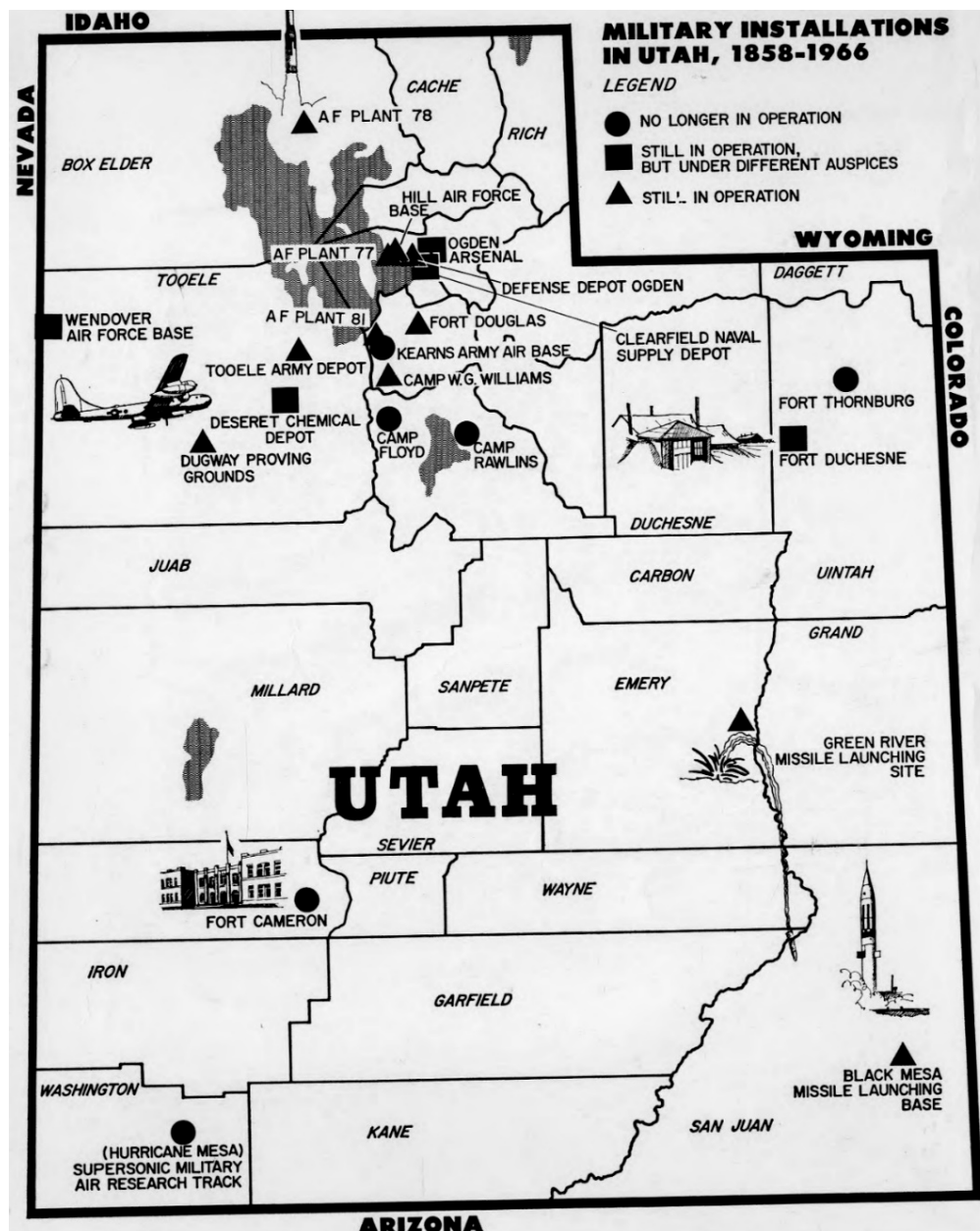
Women worked at the Bushnell military hospital in Brigham City as nurses and aids. Women from surrounding towns such as Logan and Ogden visited patients to play cards and board games. The most important part of their volunteer work was to treat the patients like normal people.

After the war, most women returned to domestic work because men needed jobs when they returned from war. Many were relieved to quit their jobs because they no longer had to juggle domestic and occupational work. Men took over most of the industrial and manufacturing jobs in Utah. Some women remained in the workforce as typists, secretaries, and in sewing factories.



Rosie the Riveter campaign poster.

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Utah's WWII Military Installations

- Hill Air Force Base
- Ogden Arsenal
- Ogden Defense Depot
- Clearfield Naval Supply Depot
- Kearns Army Air Base
- Tooele Army Depot

Map: Utah Military Installations 1858-1966

Source: "Military Installations, Utah," Utah State Historical Society Classified Photograph Collection, 1966, 2009.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=450511>

This map shows the military industries in Utah from 1858 to 1966.

- Where are the military industries that were in used during World War II?
- Why do you think they were built there?

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APPLYING DE-ICER EQUIPMENT

Photograph: Hill Field, ca. 1940-1945

Source: "Hill Air Force Base P.09." Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 2014.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=454575>

Women mechanics applying de-icer for WWII bomber planes. For many women jobs at Hill Field were their first outside of the home.



Photograph: Women Worker at Hill Field, ca. 1940-1945

Source: "Hill Air Force Base P.06," Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, 2014.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=454456>

Women sewing United States Air Force coats at Hill Field during World War II. Many women were experienced at sewing from making clothing and linens at home.

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Photograph: Women Airplane mechanics Hill Field, ca. 1940-1945

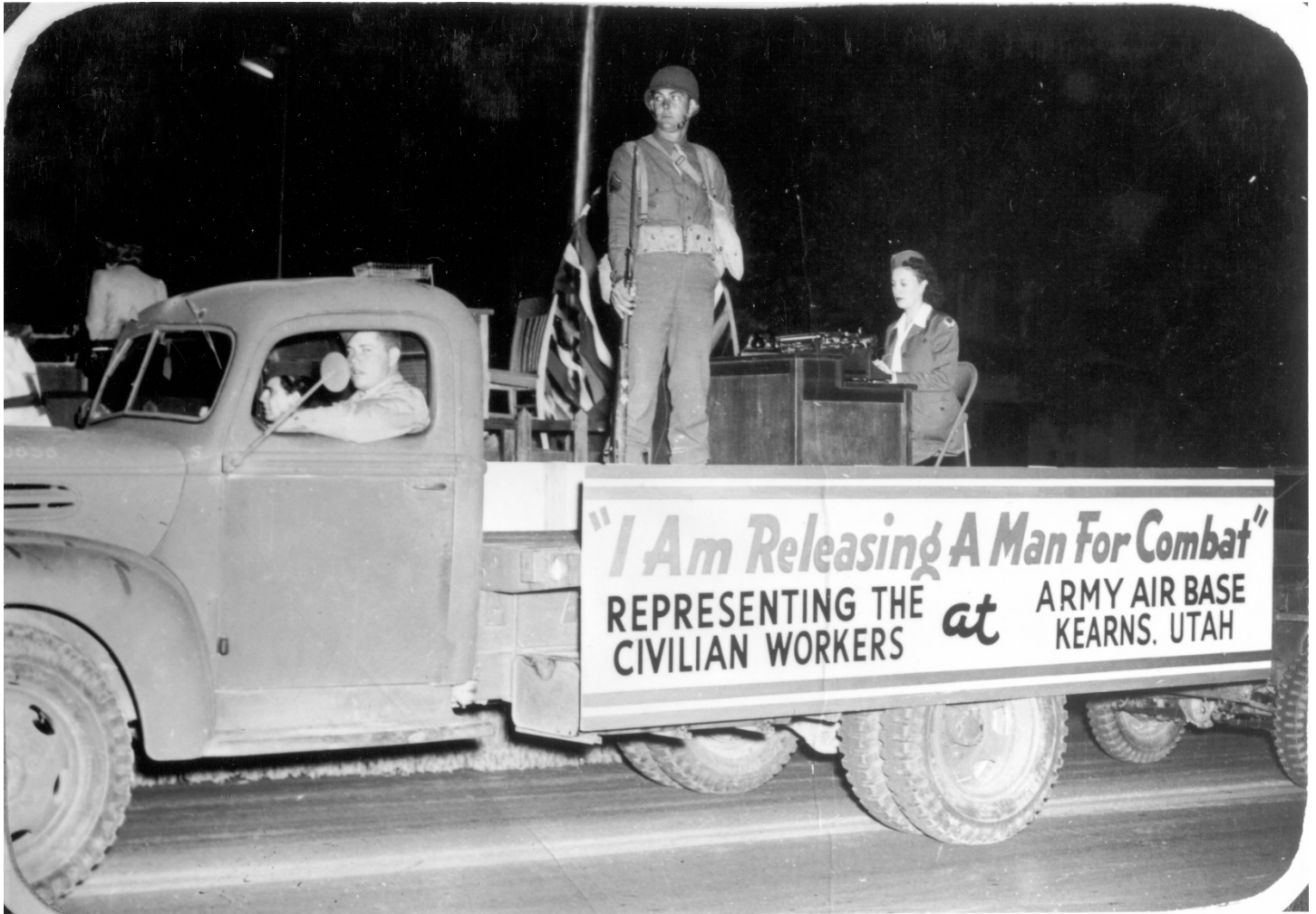
Source: "Hill Air Force Base P.07," Utah State Historical Society Classified Photograph Collection, 2014.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=454350>

Women repairing an airplane engine at field.

- How do you think women felt about doing this kind of industrial work?
- Do you think they dressed differently for work than at home?

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Photograph: Secretary and Soldiers from Kearns Army Air Base, ca. 1944

Source: "Kearns Depot (Army Air Base) P.10" Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photo Collection, 2013.
<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=454117>

Women secretaries prepared documents for soldiers to be deployed from Kearns Air Force and Depot. This photograph was taken at a local parade.

- What do you think it was like for women working with mostly men?
- What do you think "I am Releasing a Man for Combat" means?

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Photograph: Women Workers Sewing Parachutes at Kearns Army Depot, ca. 1944

Source: "Kearns Depot (Army Air Base) P.11," Utah State Historical Society Classified Photograph Collection, 2013. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=454208>

Women repairing damaged parachutes at Kearns Army Depot.



Photograph: Women Workers at Tooele Army Depot, ca. 1942-1945

Source: "Tooele Army Depot P. 17," Utah State Historical Society Classified Photograph Collection, 2014.

<https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=454573>

Women workers defusing ammunition in an assembly line workshop at Tooele Army Depot.



Photograph: Women Workers at the C.F Fauntleroy Parachute Company in Manti ca. 1942-1945

Source: "Parachute Making P. 5 #4403," Utah State Historical Society, Textile Industry Collection.

Women workers stretching parachutes at the C.F Fauntleroy Parachute Company. Unlike the military installations in northern Utah, the parachute company employed mainly women.

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Photograph: Women Workers at the C.F Fauntleroy Parachute Company in Manti ca. 1942-1945

Source: "Parachute Making, P.3 #4401," Utah State Historical Society, Textile Industry Collection.

Women wrapping parachutes to be shipped from the Parachute Company of Utah factory in Manti.



Photograph: Women Workers at the C.F Fauntleroy Parachute Company in Manteca, California. 1942-1945

Source: "Parachute Making P.4 #4402," Utah State Historical Society, Textile Industry Collection

Women workers packaging parachutes to be shipped.

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Photograph: Volunteers Harvesting World War II Victory Gardens, August 1943

Source: "World War II-Victory Gardens P. 1," Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake Tribune Classified Photograph Collection #14342, 1943, 2009. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=450299>

The Salt Lake Tribune published an article in August 1943 about how Victory Gardens contributed to the war effort. Utah women planted large gardens to help feed their communities when food was rationed during the war. This photograph shows women and men volunteering at a victory garden.

- What kinds of people are helping with the garden?
- Why do you think older people helped with the gardens?
- What kind of food do you think they grew?



Photograph: Women Canning the Harvest from World War II Victory Gardens, August 1943

Source: "World War II-Victory Gardens P.3," Utah State Historical Society, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Classified Photograph Collection, 1943, 2009. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=450311>

Women held canning and preserving events after they harvested their Victory Gardens. They would then distribute food throughout their communities.

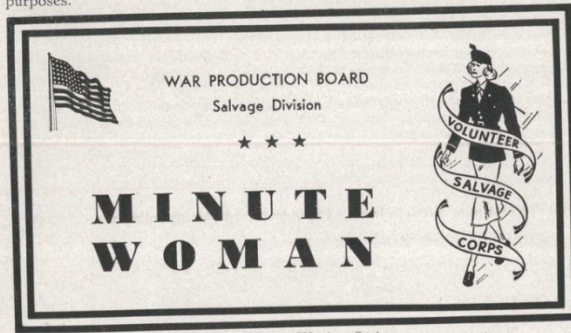


Photograph: Women Canning the Harvest from World War II Victory Gardens, August 1943

Source: "World War II-Victory Gardens P.2," Utah State Historical Society, *Salt Lake Tribune* Classified Photograph Collection, 1943, 2009. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/details?id=450305>

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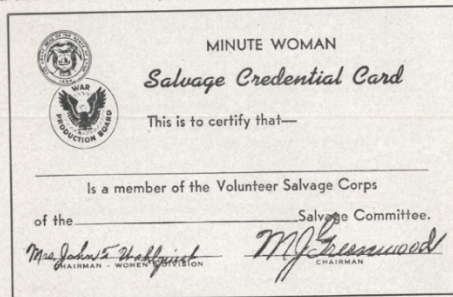
This large organization of women served as volunteer workers for more than three years. During that time no one solicited membership in the organization. Each member was selected and given an official letter of appointment. Along with letters of appointment, Minute Women were given Minute Women Window Stickers and Credential Cards which were used for identification purposes.



Minute Woman Window Sticker (Reduced one-half size)

The woman who was selected as a leader on her block was called a "Minute Woman" because she stood ready to disseminate information in her area and carry forward a war job any time she was notified. She carried the responsibility of an educational program on continuous salvage activities and the frequent introduction of new programs and special projects and campaigns.

Numerous times the Minute Woman responded to call on a "minute's" notice. She never lost sight of the significant role of salvage in war production, and the constant demands of the battlefields were her statistics; however, she directed and assisted in many other war programs.



Minute Woman Credential Card (Actual size)

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Minute Women Sticker and Salvage Card

Source: *Utah Minute Women: World War II, 1942-1945*, p. 20. Utah State Historical Society, PAM 1845

Minute Women leaders received salvage (recycling) cards and stickers as credentials from the War Production Board.

- Look at the illustrations on the sticker and salvage card. How did the War Department make women feel like they were part of the war effort?



Salvage Programs

CONSERVATION of materials needed in production for war started in the summer of 1941 when silk was "frozen." When nylon was discovered to be more effective, in most instances, than silk, it, likewise, was removed from the civilian market. As production for war increased, controls on other vital materials became imperative.

SCRAP IRON AND STEEL

Under the direction of B. L. Wood, State Executive Secretary, later State Salvage Manager, and Marion J. Greenwood, State Salvage Chairman, the drives in Utah for scrap iron went over all quotas established by officials in Washington, D. C. As a result of the cooperation of newspapers, radios, schools, industry, and the response of citizens, inventories kept ahead of production so that by 1944 national drives for scrap iron were discontinued. However, industry continued to furnish the scrap iron needed in the steel mills.

RUBBER

A National Scrap Rubber Campaign was conducted in the Spring of 1942. The situation became acute when most of America's sources for raw rubber were in the possession of the enemy. Scrap rubber which was used in combination with synthetic materials extended the rubber inventories. The Petroleum Industry sponsored this drive which made synthetic rubber possible many months before it was anticipated.

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Scrap Iron, Steel and Rubber Salvage Programs

Source: *Utah Minute Women: World War II, 1942-1945*, p. 21. Utah State Historical Society, PAM 1845

Women salvaged scrap iron, steel, and rubber that was used to make weapons and ammunition during the war.

- Look at the illustration above. How does it connect Minute Women's work to the battlefield?

HOUSEHOLD FATS

The collection of waste fats and greases (later called Household Fats), was the first project the Utah Minute Women were asked to direct as an organization.



In order to secure glycerine necessary in the manufacture of explosives, the American Fat Salvage Industry sponsored, in connection with the Salvage Division W.P.B., one of the best organized salvage programs. Millions of dollars were spent in continuous promotional and educational activities. It was necessary to educate American housewives on the industrial uses of household fats and then constantly remind them to save a tablespoonful a day. The salvaged fats were then taken to the butcher shop. Many community chairwomen assisted the butcher in the preparation of fats for shipping.

A ceiling price was established for household fats which allowed four cents a pound to be paid to housewives. As the fat situation became more critical the Office of Price Administration aided the program by permitting the exchange of two red meat ration points a pound in addition to the four cents. October 1, 1945, four red points a pound were given. This was the only war program in which O.P.A. granted an exchange of ration points for a vital war material.

Before the end of the war, through American research and efficient laboratory technicians, hundreds of articles essential to the war effort were manufactured from by-products of fats and oils. There was an increase in uses for explosives, military medicines, military supplies and numerous industrial purposes.

Utah's Fat Salvage Record Outstanding

The Minute Women of Utah did an excellent job on the Fat Salvage Program. In 1942, following the organization of the Minute Women, Utah rose to fifth place in the nation on fat collections on a per capita basis.

Salvaging Household Fats

Source: *Utah Minute Women: World War II, 1942-1945*, p. 22. Utah State Historical Society, PAM 1845

Women were instructed to save a tablespoon a day. Fats were used for explosives, military medicines, and military supplies.

In 1943 Utah held first place in the United States on pounds of fat collected from each occupied dwelling during July, August, and November, and second place during June and September. Utah exceeded its monthly quota of 80,500 pounds three months in 1943: May with 103.3% (third place in nation), June 106.8% (third place in nation). Utah also placed third place in July with 95.4% of its assigned quota. Utah was one of six states to retain the assigned quota in 1943 on three different occasions.

During the first six months of 1944 Utah consistently went over the fat salvage quota. The aggregate for the twelve-month period reached the quota for the year.

In 1945 no state quotas were established in Washington, D. C. The War Food Administration assumed the leadership in the Fat Salvage Program with the Salvage Committee, W.P.B., cooperating wherever possible. In Utah the Minute Women carried forward the Fat Salvage Program as they had done in the past with the War Food Administration and other agencies cooperating.

Deer and Elk Fat Project

The State Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the Utah Minute Women, promoted a program to obtain the deer fats each fall during deer season. For three years, 1942, 1943 and 1944, receptacles were placed at checking stations. Hunters left deer fats in containers and local salvage committees supervised rendering and shipping to Fat Salvage Industry.

Pearl Harbor Fats Collection

A test speed program was initiated for December 7, 1942. The purpose was to increase fat collections and test the rapidity with which the newly formed Minute Women Organization could respond. The following appeal was received by City Chairwomen about two days prior to December 7:

FATS FOR VICTORY



Fats for Victory

Source: *Utah Minute Women: World War II, 1942-1945*, p. 23. Utah State Historical Society, PAM 1845

Women salvaged household fats that were used to make explosives during the War.

- Read through the fat projects and look at the illustrations. What kinds of fat did Utah women donate?
- How did women use them at home?
- How were fats used for the war effort?

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1. **Wash** cans thoroughly after emptying contents. Remove paper labels. (Labels usually come off anyway in flattening process.)
2. **Open** cans, bottoms as well as tops. Tuck in tops and bottoms.
3. **Flatten** cans by stepping on them. Leave enough space between flattened sides to see through them. Do not hammer them.

TIN

The Tin Can Salvage Program was intensified as the tin inventories diminished. Before the war, Sumatra, the Malayan Peninsula, and the Dutch East Indies provided 90% of our tin supply. The remainder came from Alaska and Bolivia.

Tin became a vital material because of its protective and preservative qualities. A most appealing promotional story, which helped to salvage millions of cans, was derived from the fact that the tin from two tin cans was sufficient to make the tiny, life saving, morphine filled "syringe." Wounded servicemen related dramatic experiences which energized the program.

Utah's Tin Can Salvage was started in Ogden and Salt Lake City in 1943 with collections at the schools. Many people had followed the instructions and saved tin cans months prior to the first collection. In May, 1944, with the summer vacation ahead, the collection plan was changed to housewives taking prepared tin cans to the grocery stores. Beverage and grocery trucks cooperated in moving cans to the tin-can depots. This pattern of collection was extended to most communities of the state. Motor transportation lines as well as the above companies hauled cans gratis from long distances to shipping points—Ogden, Provo, and Salt Lake City. Railroad rates were reduced in order to make possible the shipping of cans to Metal and Thermit Detinning Plant in South San Francisco.

The last five months of the Tin-Can Program, ideal collections were established in Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County. Prepared tin cans were picked up by city and county trucks from each home on the regular garbage collection day.



The Salt Lake City Commission passed a City Ordinance March 19, 1943, making it unlawful for tin cans to be put out with garbage.

The Tin Can Program closed in Utah September 30, 1945, after a successful campaign.

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Salvaging Tin Cans

Source: *Utah Minute Women: World War II, 1942-1945*, p. 25. Utah State Historical Society, PAM 1845

Tin cans that were recycled to make weapons during the war.

- Look at the illustration. Is this how cans are recycled today?



NEWSPAPERS: Fold them flat (the way the paper boy sells them) and tie them in bundles about 12 inches high.



MAGAZINES AND BOOKS: Tie them in bundles about 18 inches high.



CORRUGATED AND CARDBOARD BOXES AND CARTONS: Flatten them out and tie them in bundles about 12 inches high.



WASTERASKET PAPER (WRAPPERS, ENVELOPES, ETC.): Flatten and pack down in a box or bundle, so that it can be carried.

PAPER

Waste paper went to war! It served as a source from which millions of containers were manufactured. Practically everything the war program needed required packing—shells, food, medicines, clothing, maps, and numerous other articles. Paper was utilized in thousands of different ways.

In order to meet acute shortages that developed in the paperboard industry, due primarily to the curtailment of wood pulp imports from foreign countries and war demands for paperboard containers, a waste paper conservation program was launched in September 1941. Within a short time the markets were glutted. Railroad lines were loaded with war equipment and with servicemen moving to training camps and to the theatres of war. The paper program was temporarily suspended.

Salvage committees introduced paper drives in the fall of 1943. Continuous paper collections were conducted in every community in the state of Utah. As a result of the cooperation of the people, trucking lines, schools, civic, and community leaders, Salvage Committees and Minute Women, the campaigns for waste paper were successful.

In order to facilitate the reconversion program in the paper industry, after the closing of the State Salvage Office September 30, 1945, the State chairman of the Women's Salvage Division, continued as a volunteer to coordinate paper drives in Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Provo. Paper collections were continued in these communities under the direction of the leaders of the Minute Women. The Utah County Director, Men's Division, continued to supervise collections in that area.

Salvaging Paper

Source: *Utah Minute Women: World War II, 1942-1945*, p. 26. Utah State Historical Society, PAM 1845

Women salvaged paper that was used as packaging to transport goods during the war.

- Look at the illustration above. How was paper collected and prepared for recycling?
- How was paper used in the war effort?

Tabulation of Utah's Salvage Reports

All salvage programs were conducted under the direction of the Men's Salvage Division. However, as the war continued and manpower became critical, Minute Women were assigned many salvage programs—collections and shipping as well as direction of campaigns and disseminating of educational information concerning salvage programs. Minute Women followed through on collections of household fats, tin cans, rags, old clothing, silk and nylon hosiery, as well as waste paper starting in 1944-45.

The following report shows, on a yearly basis, the results of the salvage activities in Utah:

	1942	1943	1944	1945 (8 mos.)	Total Materials Collected in all four years:
Scrap Iron & Steel	84,000,000 lbs.	84,499,929 lbs.	48,966,344 lbs.	24,542,700 lbs.	242,008,973 lbs.
Non-ferrous Metals	2,200,000 lbs.	2,257,955 lbs.	5,028,199 lbs.	3,324,000 lbs.	12,810,154 lbs.
Waste Paper	7,560,000 lbs.	666,194 lbs.	20,328,000 lbs.	18,024,000 lbs.	46,578,194 lbs.
Tin Cans	268,000 lbs.	2,085,895 lbs.	2,707,091 lbs.	1,497,000 lbs.	6,557,968 lbs.
Household Fats	114,836 lbs.	714,193 lbs.	865,130 lbs.	568,379 lbs.	2,262,538 lbs.
Rubber	13,064,000 lbs.	40,451 lbs.			13,104,451 lbs.
Rags		79,247 lbs.	87,095 lbs.	36,000 lbs.	202,342 lbs.
Old Clothing		83,310 lbs.			83,310 lbs.
Jewelry		2,500 lbs.			2,500 lbs.
Silk and Nylon Hosiery		19,527 lbs.			19,527 lbs.
Collapsible Tin Tubes			12,037 lbs.		12,037 lbs.

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Tabulation of Utah's Salvage Reports

Source: *Utah Minute Women: World War II, 1942-1945*, p. 26. Utah State Historical Society, PAM 1845

This report shows the goods that Utah Minute Women salvaged each year.

- Look closely at the report. What types of goods were salvaged?
- Do people recycle these items today?

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

Oral History: Althea Andelin Roberts describes her experience as a volunteer at Bushnell Hospital

Source: Althea Andelin Roberts, "Episodes I Remember about the Bushnell Hospital," 2005, Utah State Historical Society, World War II Women on the Home Front Oral History Project

Bushnell was the name of a government hospital during WWII hastily built for wounded soldiers, mostly amputee cases. The hospital also housed some psychiatric units for those who had serious battle fatigue or shell-shock, if there is a such a condition.

The hospital itself, was a series of many yellow buildings looking like barracks. It was located on the far south-east side of Brigham City, Utah on the corner where highway 89 going to Logan intersects the road on the south end of town coming in from Willard. Some of the buildings are still standing in disrepair. Many buildings have been removed. It is now a ghost of a place with withered boards and cracked steps. Not many empty buildings remain but house slivers of memories of those who had anything to do with it.

Even though it was a government hospital, I do not recall many strict rule observances when we visited. We often visited with church groups who sponsored young girls from the Ogden area to travel up in busses and visit the boys who were suffering. They always met in a large recreation room where tables had been placed around the sides. Two boys sat at each table, leaving two empty seats, and the girls sifted through until they found where they wanted to sit, and sat down and talked to the guys. Sometimes there were dances but I don't recall dancing since most of the patients were amputees. There was always a program that went on and some music. It proved to be a great morale builder.

I met several young men who came into the Ogden area and visited my home. One boy was named Alvin Schultz. I do not recall his injuries or if it was psychosomatic. He never did tell me, however, he had been in battle in Japan and brought home a large Japanese flag with the sun and rays on it. He noticed that our piano bench stool was very worn and he made a cover for it. He brought it for a present. He made it in the rehab craft area. I have used the cover for over sixty years and it is still in pretty good shape. I do not recall where Alvin was from or anything much about him except he was not here long. He came to our house several times over about a period of a couple months.

Another young man had lost a large portion of his skull. He had a metal plate in his head. He showed me the area of cuts and how the plate was inserted. He was a quiet young man and came to our house for Sunday dinner a couple of times.

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

Oral History: Interview with Stella Underman Geary Guymon

Source: Stella Underman Geary Guymon Huntington, first interview: Utah, October 21, 2004, second interview December 7, 2004. Utah State Historical Society, World War II Women on the Home Front Oral History Project, 2005.

Stella Underman Geary Guymon recalls her experience as a young women growing up the small town of Huntington, Utah during World War II.

Dottie: Do you remember understanding what the war was all about? The Nazis? What was going on in Germany and Japan?

Stella: Oh yes. We were real concerned, and we were losing these boys and everything. I think it was a real stressful time for all of us, and with the rationing and all. I remember we were at a party at one of my friends' homes when we heard about V.J. Day and how excited we were. We went up and down the streets honking our horns. I remember we had a little celebration on V.E. Day and I remember some friends said "We didn't get in our car and didn't parade up and down the street. We went to town and visited with Myron and Rena Grange because their boy had been killed." I thought that was such a sweet thoughtful thing to do. The rest of us were celebrating.

Dottie: Who did you know that was killed in the war?

Stella: Pete Grange, and Marie's husband were killed. She had one child when he left and a baby while he was gone. So when he was killed, she was left with two children. It was a terrible tragedy here in our community.

Dottie: Do you remember if there were any changes when the war began. Were there any changes in your life?

Stella: Yes. The rationing. If your job demanded that you had to drive, then you got more gasoline, and of course, you were very careful with sugar. I don't remember any of the other things that we had to be careful with.

Dottie: People have told us meat was rationed, and there was no butter. Did you raise your own animals?

Stella: We never had to worry about that. We had our own animals, and churned our own butter, so we didn't have that to worry about.

Shirley: Do you remember gathering milk-weed pods as part of the war effort?

Stella: No. I remember making bandages. Maureen Nielson was our County Health Nurse, and I remember we made bandages, and we had to send them somewhere. I remember doing that.

Shirley: Do you remember anything else with the Red Cross? Classes or anything?

OUR PAST, THEIR PRESENT

Stella: We had first aid classes with the Red Cross. I took home nursing from Maureen Nielson and first aid under a mortician. The mortician there in Castle Dale taught a first aid class.

Shirley: Do you remember the Relief Societies? Do you remember any projects for the war effort with the Relief Society?

Stella: I remember under the County Health Nurse, making those bandages.

Dottie: Did you have any German or Japanese people around you? Do you remember how you felt about them? Were they just the enemy or how did you feel about them?

Stella: I guess we thought toward them hatefully. I don't remember. I think we felt more resentful toward the Germans. I remember feeling ill toward them and I guess we did toward the Japanese too.

Shirley: Do you remember anything about the internment camps like Topaz?

Stella: We were aware of them. Then after the war was over, we found out what they had been through and all. That was awful but I guess they thought they had to do it.

Dottie: Do you remember how you felt when the atom bomb was dropped?

Stella: Yeah. I guess we were upset over it. I thought it was so terrible that so many innocent people were killed from them. We didn't get the feedback from T.V. in those days like we do now. Gosh, we live the war every day, and we didn't have that feedback in those days.