

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Becky Decatur
Current home town: Cincinnati, Ohio
Age: 80

What Memories!!

My name is Becky Decatur. I'm 80 years old. I was just 9 years old and I still remember my parents by the radio when the news of WWII broke out. My parents had businesses and I was always with them in the stores. I remember my mother kept the nylon hose (stockings) hidden to sell to her good customers. For a pair of shoes, you needed a ration card. Ration cards were also needed for groceries. Sugar and meat were two grocery items that were rationed. Cigarettes weren't rationed, but old Mister Binder kept them hidden behind the counter also.

Oh yes, gasoline was rationed! Because of my father's job we received a little more.

My father left my mother alone to run the store and took a job at Kings Mills, an ammunitions plant, to help in the war effort. (Kings Mills was a big plant.) I remember our town practiced air raids. The town's sirens would sound and we had to turn off all the lights in our homes. My mother always had the war news on. She even gave a radio to a poor family who had three sons in the war.

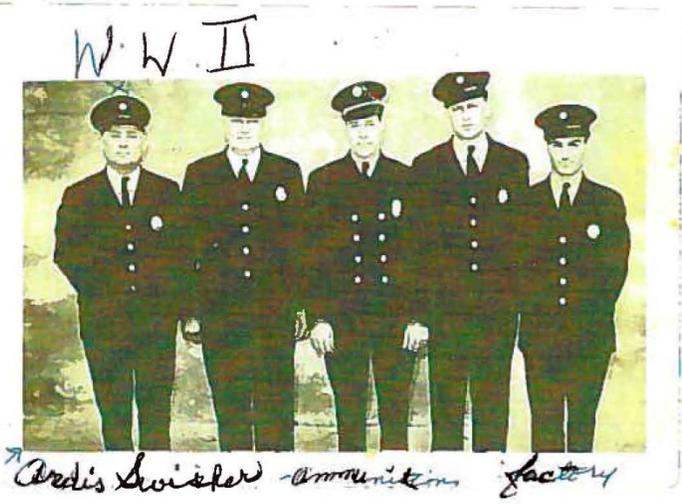
In our town, we had a huge recycle bin for tin, iron, etc., and even the tin foil from chewing gum wrappers (it was real tin foil then). Also in town was the usual board of the names of the men serving in the war. My brother-in-law was stationed in England, and my sister would wake me at night when she was worried and couldn't sleep. One thing we laughed about was the package my older sister sent him. She put Spam in the box and that was the food item the Army fed the men the most. My brother was in the Navy. They asked for anyone who was artistic – my brother was an artist and he raised his hand. He ended up baking and decorating the officers' cakes – especially birthday cakes. My parents gave him the hardware store when he returned home.

At grade school, we bought stamps and bonds for the war effort. I was the best buyer. I was allowed to help myself at the cash register to buy stamps.

The mail was delivered to the Post Office twice a day and my sister would send me after each delivery, hoping for a letter from her husband. She was just 18, married in Sioux City, Iowa just one day before he was shipped out. (She is still alive at 88.) She then helped mother in the store. It was very busy because several war plants opened nearby. I can't forget the letters came as V-Mail (reduced in size letters).



*My father on left fireman at Kings
W.W. II mills*



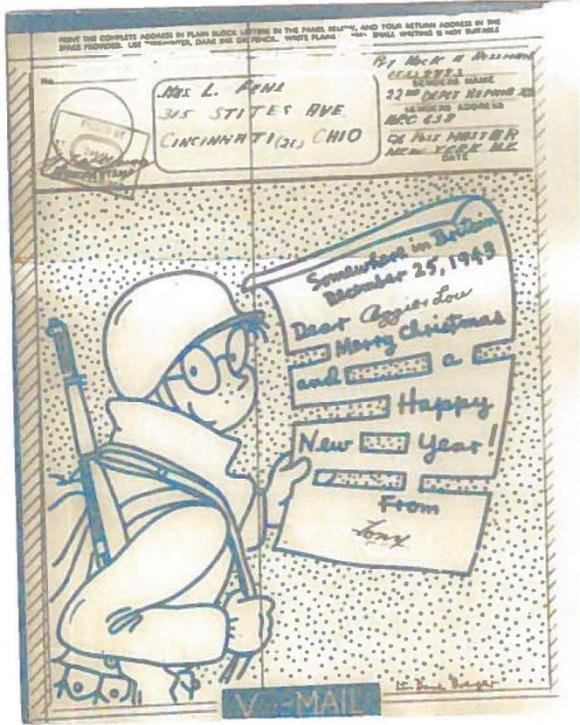
Betty Berglund
Sgt. Betty Berglund A-501313
Claims Service, Hq Det, WAC Bn,
APO, APO 887, Postmaster,
New York, New York

Ju
See Instruction
No. 5

V...-MAIL

Handwritten note on left side of envelope

MRS. AGNES FEHL
315 Stites Ave
Cincinnati 26 Ohio



Lowell Thomas:
WAR MAP
OF THE WORLD



The Stamps contained in this Book are valid only after the lawful holder of this Book has signed the certificate below, and are void if detached contrary to the Regulations. (A father, mother, or guardian may sign the name of a person under 18.) In case of questions, difficulties, or complaints, consult your local Ration Board.



UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



War Ration Book One

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- 2 This book must not be transferred. It must be held and used only by or on behalf of the person to whom it has been issued, and anyone presenting it thereby represents to the Office of Price Administration, an agency of the United States Government, that it is being so held and so used. For any misuse of this book it may be taken from the holder by the Office of Price Administration.
- 3 In the event either of the departure from the United States of the person to whom this book is issued, or his or her death, the book must be surrendered in accordance with the Regulations.
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No 313431 -214

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I, *the undersigned*, do hereby certify that I have observed all the conditions and regulations governing the issuance of this War Ration Book; that the "Description of Book Holder" contained herein is correct; that an application for issuance of this book has been duly made by me or on my behalf; and that the statements contained in said application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Michael Stoyler [Book Holder's Own Name]
(Signature of, or on behalf of, Book Holder)

Any person signing on behalf of Book Holder must sign his or her own name below and indicate relationship to Book Holder _____

(Father, Mother, or Guardian)

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1942 16-28681-1 OPA Form No. 11-202

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Certificate of Registrar

This is to Certify that pursuant to the Rationing Orders and Regulations administered by the OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION, an agency of the United States Government,

(Name, Address, and Description of person to whom the book is issued):

Fell *Louis* *Charles*
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)
315 *Stites*
(Street No. or P. O. Box No.) (Street or R. F. D.)
Wendover Hamilton Ohio
(City or town) (County) (State)

5 ft. *10* in. *150* lbs. *Gray Brown* *46* yrs. Sex (Male Female
(Height) (Weight) (Color of eyes) (Color of hair) (Age)

has been issued the attached War Ration Stamps this *5* day of *May*, 1942, upon the basis of an application signed by himself , herself , or on his or her behalf by his or her husband , wife , father , mother , exception . (Check one.)

Laura A. Reedy (Signature)
(Registrar)

Local Board No. *21-PTB* County *Hamilton* State *Ohio*

Stamps must not be detached except in the presence of the retailer, his employee, or person authorized by him to make delivery.



5785983 5786982 5785981

631AR 631AR 631AR

5785978 5785977 5785976

631AR 631AR 631A

5785973

631AR

Ration
5 stamps
GAS



0400201
A16
MILEAGE

0400201
A17
MILEAGE

0400201
A17
MILEAGE

0400201
A16
MILEAGE

Office, Board of Education, MADEIRA VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. B
 Madeira, Hamilton County, Ohio July 21 1945
THE CAMARGO BANK, MADEIRA, OHIO
 Depository of said Board of Education

Pay to Mr. Herman DeCotue
light and 75/100 - Dollars, (\$ 8.75)
 out of GENERAL Fund in the Depository

For cutting grass July 4th - 3^{1/2} hrs @ 2.50

APPROPRIATION E-7 The Board of Education President
 Clerk-Treas.

AD Indian Hill School then

for GAS -

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete this stamp from the Bureau of War Relocation Administration with the name and address of the payee. Do not detach this stamp from the ration book.
2. If you wish to use this stamp, the stamp and all attached coupons must be filed in the ration book with the ration book.
3. If you wish to use this stamp, the stamp and all attached coupons must be presented to your Board of Education. The stamp and all attached coupons will not be returned to you unless you have presented them to your Board of Education. It is the responsibility of the Board of Education to file this stamp and all attached coupons in the ration book at the time of each inventory.

A BASIC MILEAGE RATION
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 CIVIC DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION

NAME OF REGISTERED OWNER
Herman A DeCotue

STREET ADDRESS
RR #1 Box 1234, Cincinnati, Ohio

CITY AND STATE
Cincinnati, Ohio

CLASS OF VEHICLE
240 cc. Chev. 1941

0400201

0400201 0400201
A17 A16
MILEAGE MILEAGE

0400201 0400201
A17 A16
MILEAGE MILEAGE