

Women in WW2

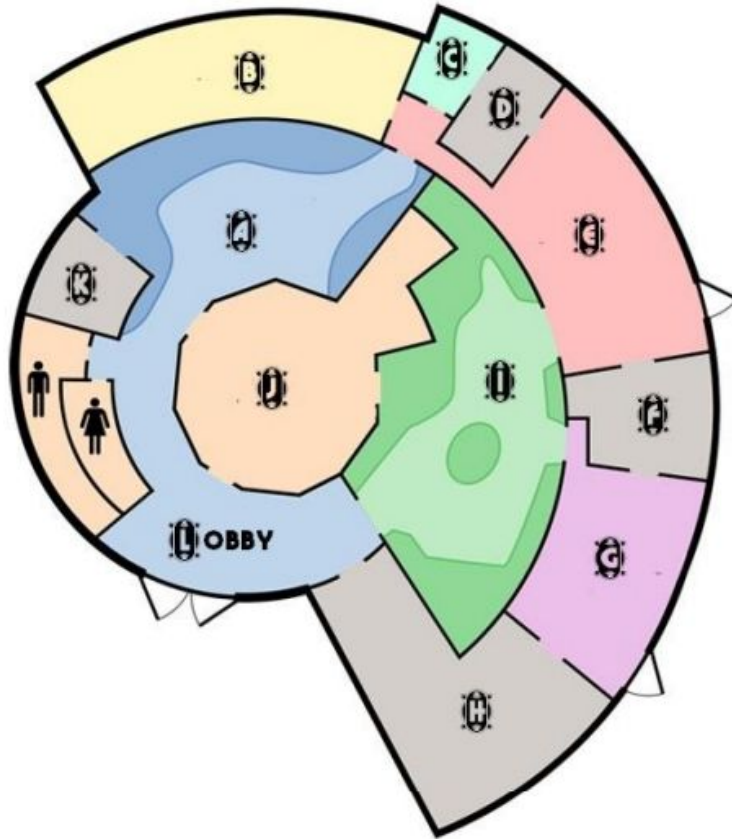
By Halle, Jason and Jessica



Map of Museum

Legend in order of importance:

- A: Women > Men
- I: We can do it
- J: Gift Shop
- H: Double O Seven
- E: WASP
- G: EmERgency
- K: Tragedy
- B: Not so comforting
- F: WAVES
- D: Who needs a grocery store anyways?
- C: Less is more



Room A: Women in the Work Force

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, women had worked in American factories, however, only doing tasks considered appropriate for women. Throughout WWII, manufacturing resources were devoted to producing goods to satisfy military demands. The percentage of American women who worked outside the home increased from 25% to 36%. This was due to the shortage of male workers who went to war. Various uses of propaganda are revealed through powerful women including “Rosie the Riveter”, who promoted the idea that it was patriotic and not unfeminine for women to have untraditional jobs. A particular job women had in the workplace, was to manufacture clothes and boots for soldiers. Unmarried women also labored as telephone operators and in the electronics industry. Because the war created job shortages of domestic household workers and service employees, the U.S. Employment Service ordered occupations within hotels, restaurants, laundries, and stores, as “essential civilian industries”, as they need increased support towards war production workers.

Laundry Operator

she keeps a nation clean

Homes, Offices, Factories
must be kept
CLEAN

Laundries Must Give Help!

Women are needed in laundries as
sorters, checkers,
pressers, makers,
washers, inspectors,
and machine operators.

A breakdown in our military
services will mean epidemics
and disruption of war pro-
duction because of absent-
ees. Women in the
factory must have
steady laundry
service.

A clean shirt
means a lot to a man who's been
working on the railroad.

These Essential Civilian Industries
Need Women!

You Can Be a—

- Waitress
- Bus driver
- Cannery worker
- Trolley motorist
- Medical assistant
- Telephone messenger
- Restaurant cook
- Laundry operative
- Hospital attendant
- Department store salesgirl

Do your part and the employer should
give you these minimum standards:

- At least 8 hours a day
- A living wage
- A safe, sanitary workplace

Experience not necessary
Training on the job
Older women welcomed
Part-time schedules available

if

You live in a labor shortage area
Do not now have a war job
Have no children under 14

then

Register at your local Employment
Service office

Watch the ads in your newspaper

THIS IS TOTAL WAR! EVERYONE HAS
A JOB TO DO!

What Will You Do Today—for Victory?

*YOUR COUNTRY
NEEDS
YOU*

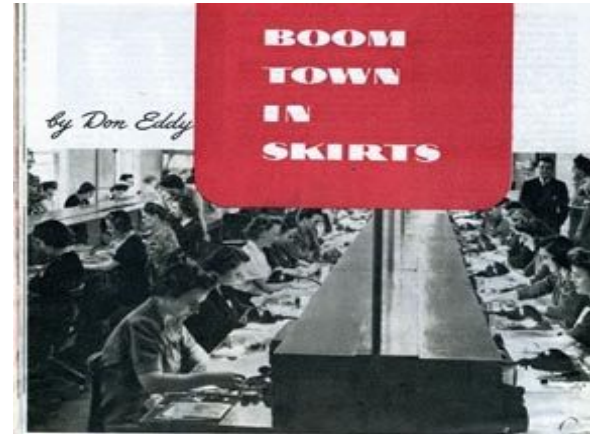
*Women Wanted
for the essential
Civilian Industries*

WAR PRODUCTION WORKERS
MUST BE BACKED UP BY
CIVILIAN DEFENSE WORKERS

LAUNDRIES STORES
HOTELS TELEPHONE
RESTAURANTS EXCHANGES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Frances Perkins, Secretary
WOMEN'S BUREAU
Mary Anderson, Director

(Left) “Your Country Needs You: Women Wanted for the Essential Civilian Industries,” published by the Women’s Bureau of the Department of Labor 1943.



Room A: Women in the Work Force

The large increase in the presence of women in the workforce also meant that those who were mothers had to suffer with issues like childcare. This was a massive issue that required women having to find quality childcare, and dealing with getting the children to and from the “day nursery” before and after work, all while dealing with the same rationing and other issues other women at home faced.

Women within the factories of the workplace worked 6 days a week in small spaces, while remaining focus and performing repetitive tasks. Women on the assembly lines would produce aircraft, engines, tanks, and trucks. With the help of women workers, the industrial production doubled between 1939 and 1945: 300,000 aircraft, 12,000 ships, 86,000 tanks, and 64,000 landing craft in addition to millions of artillery pieces and small weapons.



(Right) Wong Ruth Mae Moy, March 1943.



However, the consequence for this was that women were not paid equally to men, and this resulted in women workers agitating on a local level.

Room B: Comfort women in Asia

The phrase “comfort women” is a controversial term that refers to approximately 200,000 women who were recruited as prostitutes by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II. Many of the young women were forced into servitude and exploited as sex slaves throughout Asia, becoming victims of the largest case of human trafficking in the 20th century.

A comfort woman has to have sex with 50-100 soldiers a day.



Comfort Women Wanted. Ad-like billboard of a Taiwanese “comfort woman” survivor at The Incheon Women Artists’ Biennale, Korea, 2009. Image courtesy of the artist.

Room C: Rationing

Major food items were rationed or in short supply. Metal had to be used to produce armaments. Travel was limited because gasoline and tires were rationed. Because cooking and shopping defined women's roles, the war dramatically affected women. (Right) Poster urging women to comply with the rationing regulations.



Metals were a primary target of recycling drives. Waste paper was collected to make fuses and bones processed into explosives. Lard replaced butter as adapted recipes to deal with shortages of sugar and products.



(Left) Women saving grease and fats for recycling in purpose of war materials.

Room D: Victory Gardens

As part of the war effort, the government rationed various foods. It began to be difficult to harvest and move fruits and vegetables due to the labour and transportation shortages. Therefore, the women were encouraged to plant Victory Gardens and preserve their homemade vegetables. Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call. And in 1944, 21 million families planted 7 million acres that yielded 8 million tons of vegetables. Victory Gardens were more symbolic than purely productive as it allowed for home-front participation, and allowed for a solution in concern of food shortages.



Room E: Air force

There was a group of female pilots called the Women Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASP for short. This was created by the U.S. Army Air Forces because there was a shortage of pilots which forced the U.S. Army Air Force leaders to think outside the box: Train women to fly military aircrafts so male pilots would be able to be released for combat duty overseas.

Room F :Naval Service Jason

In 1919, a small group of women served with the United States Navy as nurses, answering to male officers. 23 years later one of the commander was commissioned into US navy to head up the women accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service Program(WAVES). And the emergency showed that many people believe that women had a place in US Navy.

By mid 1943, 27,000 American women served in the WAVES program. And by the end of the war there 8,000 of female officers which constituted 2.5% of the US Navy's personnel strength.



Room G: Nursing Jason

There is the Army Nurse Corps in WW2. More than 59,000 American nurses served in the Army Nurse Corp during the ww2. Nurse worked closer to the front lines than they ever had before. Nurses served under fire in the field hospitals and evacuation hospital. The skill and dedication of these nurses contributed to the extremely low post-injury mortality rate among American military forces in every theater of the war.



Room H: Women Spies. Jason

The Special Operation Executive (SOE) was a British World War 2 organisation. Following Cabinet approval, it was officially formed by Minister of Economic Warfare Hugh Dalton on 22 July 1940, to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in occupied Europe (and later, also in occupied Southeast Asia) against the Axis powers, and to aid local resistance movement.

The size of this organization is 13000 people and out of 3200 of the is woman.

Later after it settled in the location of London headquarters, they are also known as “Churchill’s Secret army” or the ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare”

SOE operate in all countries or former countries occupied by or attacked by Axis forces

It worked as the network in other country to get information.



Room I: Propaganda for women

Propaganda for women in the Second World War (WW2) focussed on urging women to come out of their homes and work in factories. One common example of this in Canada Ronnie, The Bren Gun Girl was the main source of propaganda for women. Veronica Foster was the women used to create Ronnie on Posters promoting women in the workforce. Veronica Foster worked for the John Inglis Co. producing Bren Light Machine Guns; eventually she became known as Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl or Poster Girl. Ronnie was usually shown with a cigarette in her mouth piecing together a machine gun. She was also displayed in a cartoon form: she wore a overalls and a bandanna around her head with cigarette in her mouth and putting together a machine gun. A common statement given by Ronnie on posters was, "Ronnie says: keep's coming" which refers to the manufacturing of machine guns. This propaganda campaign created by the Canadian Government gained huge support for the war effort. Ronnie is also seen as the precursor for the more well known, American fictional propaganda character known as Rosie the Riveter. Rosie the Riveter was the star of an American government campaign aimed at recruiting females at the Home Front for munitions industry, some would say that this became the most known image of working women during the war. Rosie was usually shown with overalls and a bandanna around her head stating, "We Can Do It!" on posters. Rosie the Riveter became of the most successful ways of recruiting women to work in factories. The common theme in Rosie the Riveter and Ronnie, the Bren gun girl was that they wore overalls and bandanas which convey a working environment. This propaganda greatly influence this amount of women recruited to work in factories and it also empowered women to have equal rights.

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Room J: Gift shop

1. Rosie the Riveter sweatshirts and T-shirts
2. A Soldier's boot mug
3. It tastes just like butter pins
4. Little victory garden sculptures
5. A WASP key chain
6. A spy watch that allows to to record and shock people

Room K: The rape of Berlin

The rape of Berlin refers to mass rapes of German women in Berlin during the later stages of World War II. When Allied troops entered and occupied Berlin and other German territory mass rapes of German women were done by Allied troops. Most of the Western scholars have come to a conclusion that most of the rapes committed were done by Red Army Soldiers. Although Russian historians state that these crimes were not widespread.