

It will perhaps be a year or more
when this reaches you. It will be
a year we shall always remember
as the one when hostilities ceased
and men worked hard to make
a lasting peace.
Wage a tear
With all my love,
Mother

Tuesday evening
November 14/41

Dear Shirley,
I recently visited London,
London, England - the center
from which Anglo-Saxon culture
and civilization have spread
throughout the world, second la-
rge city on earth, great financial,
commercial and manufacturing
center, nerve center of the United States
victory drive in the west.
After an early morning train
ride from a town near my
present airbase, I arrived at a great
London station, caught a ride in an
ancient looking cab and engaged a
room in the Regent Palace Hotel
in Piccadilly.

Heart of the
city. After a spare
meal I went
to the Central Office
to purchase
returning to
I ate dinner

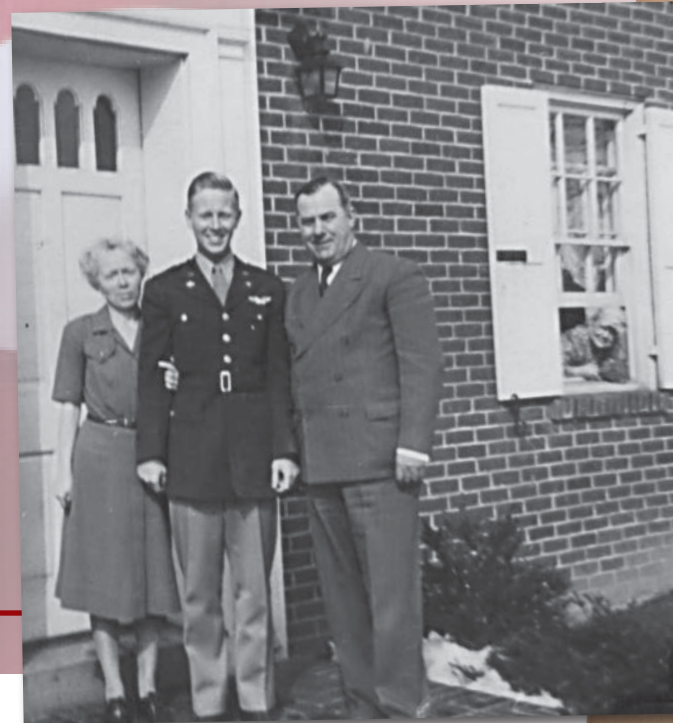
WORLD WAR II

IN DELAWARE



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THE MINKER FAMILY

In February 1943 eighteen-year-old Ralph L. Minker, Jr., known to family and friends as "Lee," left Dickinson College to enlist in the Army Air Corps. Thus, began a correspondence that Lee, his parents, and his two younger sisters maintained until he returned from service in August 1945. Every member of the family wrote detailed letters that provide a full account of their activities and reveal their personalities. Lee's letters home provide detailed accounts of his extensive training as a B-17 pilot and his experiences flying 37 bombing missions from Rattlesden AAF Base in Suffolk, England. Letters from home in Wilmington, DE are full of news of life on the home front: the progress of the war, friends lost in combat, bond drives, blackouts, rationing, the strife of race riots and coal strikes, and pride in their son and brother. After reading the news from home, Minker shipped the letters written to him back to his family. Taken together, the correspondence provides an unusually detailed picture of one family's experience in World War II.

You can view more about the Minker collection [HERE](#).



How can research into a soldier's family history help us understand the wider impact of World War II?

What can we learn about World War II from letters and images?

How can close examination of primary sources help us understand a different time period?

How can looking at our personal experiences and current events help us to better understand life in the past?

A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

When did World War II begin?

Many issues remained unresolved at the end of the Great War, or World War I. Humiliated by the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles and left economically and politically unstable, Germany saw the National Socialist Party rise to power. With promises of restored prosperity, Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany in 1933.

It was known that Hitler's sights were turned to Poland and the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact suggested there would be no defense from the east. But France and Great Britain had guaranteed military support to Poland if attacked. When Germany invaded Poland on **September 1, 1939**, France and Great Britain declared war and the Second World War began.

When did the United States join WWII? Why did it take so long?

Many Americans were still healing from the losses of WWI only 20 years earlier. The public was reluctant to join another conflict and, in the early years of the war, considered it a "European problem". Additionally, joining the war would require the United States make major changes to its economy, shifting existing industries to wartime production. It was considered too great a risk.

What led the United States to war?

President Roosevelt's hand was forced on December 7, 1941 when Japan attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The surprise aerial attack killed thousands of U.S. military and civilians and resulted in the sinking of the USS Arizona. Americans on the mainland and the Hawaiian Islands alike, were devastated. The following day, Congress declared war on Japan, one of Germany's allies, and officially entered the world conflict.

But it wasn't only military forces called to action. Referred to as "citizen soldiers", civilians answered the call as well, volunteering, taking jobs in factories producing wartime needs, and making sacrifices to better support the men fighting overseas.

CURFEWS



Curfews and social distancing may seem like strange concepts to some of us, but they are certainly not new. Curfews have been used throughout history in the name of public health and public safety.

In 1896 Delawareans briefly considered instituting curfew laws for children - debating in homes, churches, and letters to the editor that children were better off at home, rather than on the streets forming "bad acquaintances and evil habits". In 1915, Delaware City issued a curfew for children of the town and issued fines to parents of curfew breakers. In 1917 Newark followed suit. Later, during the 1918 Influenza pandemic, some cities issued curfew orders, canceled large events, and closed schools to prevent the spread of the flu.

DOVER STREETS BARRED TO YOUTH AFTER 10 P. M.

Council Passes Curfew Ordinance Applying To Boys and Girls Under 17 in Move To Combat Juvenile Delinquency

REHOBOTH CURFEW EFFECTIVE TODAY

Restrictions such as these are not always due to a health crisis. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt issued a strict curfew law on Japanese Americans living on the West Coast, prior to forcing them into internment camps. Italian and German immigrant communities were also required to submit to curfews. Along the East coast the government instituted planned and surprise blackout tests, requiring residents to turn off all lights, go inside, and stay inside.

Later in the war the federal government enacted a mandatory nationwide curfew, requiring all entertainment venues to close at midnight in order to conserve fuel, energy, and manpower in support of the war effort.

Curfew on Entertainment Becomes Effective Tonight

WMC Director and Governor to Confer on Plans For Enforcement of New Order to Conserve Fuel; Aid of Police Sought

Gas Stations Busy Before Curfew But Ample Supply Over Week-End is Assured

Midnight Curfew Ordered For Night Spots, Theatres

Byrnes Invokes Manpower Controls to Make February 26 'Request' Obligatory; Purpose to Save Coal and Light

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—A midnight curfew was proclaimed today for night clubs, theatres, road houses, saloons and all other "places of entertainment" throughout the nation.

The action, taken by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes becomes effective Feb. 26, and is expected to make New York's Broadway and countless other amusement centers look like deserted villages after the stroke of 12.

Byrnes' mandate took the form of a "request" to operators of entertainment places, from swank night spot to neighborhood movie, to have their patrons out and the doors locked up by midnight.

But Byrnes invoked manpower controls to make compliance, to all intents, obligatory. He said he would ask the War Manpower Commission to "deny ceilings to any places violating this request." This would deprive such establishments of employees.

Effect in Delaware

(The principal effect of the new Byrnes directive in Delaware will be to force the earlier closing of private clubs and tap rooms it was explained here last night. While the clubs are required under Delaware law to stop selling liquor at midnight—just as tap rooms are—some of the clubs normally remain open for several hours beyond the closing of the bars.

(Tap rooms stop serving at midnight and normally put out their lights by 12:30 or before. Strict enforcement of the lights out at midnight rule would mean the tap rooms will have to stop serving a little earlier to get patrons out at midnight. Theatres and other establishments listed are normally closed before the new curfew.)

The War Production Board, the Office of Defense Transportation and the Office of Price Administration also were asked to aid the WMC as far as possible in enforcing the "request."

Byrnes said his purpose "is pri-

See CURFEW—Page 4

Curfew—

Continued From First Page

marily to save coal consumed in heating and in providing electricity. But it will also be helpful in the fields of transportation, manpower and in other ways."

Places of entertainment were defined as all night clubs, sport arenas, theatres, dance halls, road houses, saloons, bars, "and other similar enterprises, whether public or private, excluding restaurants engaged exclusively in serving food."

Order Means Full Close

Closing at midnight means that patrons shall leave in time to permit full closing by that time, the Byrnes announcement said.

"The War Manpower Commission will be requested to deny ceilings to any places violating this request," the statement said.

In announcing the broad step, Byrnes said:

"Conservation measures previously taken by the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, including reduction of travel, the elimination of the use of electricity in outdoor advertising, the lowering of temperatures in government buildings and an appeal to the public to lower temperatures in homes do not appear to suffice in view of the coal shortage.

"I am advised by the War Production Board that the industrial coal stocks on hand are inadequate.

"Unfavorable weather conditions and possible spring floods render

the coal situation even more serious than a few weeks ago.

"The closing of places of entertainment at midnight should impose no real hardships, and I am convinced our people at home will gladly comply with this request in view of the fact that in the period just ahead of us those in the armed services will be making greater sacrifices than ever before."

The Byrnes statement said he felt sure "that state and local officials would cooperate wholeheartedly with the Federal Government in carrying out this objective and in bringing any violations to the attention of the proper authorities."

Midnight Curfew Advocated To Insure Rest for Workers

During WWII curfew orders were given for various reasons. What does the newspaper article on the previous page tell us about why the government decided to issue a midnight curfew?

The article states that the order is a "request". What does the author mean when he says that Byrnes will invoke manpower controls to make compliance with the order obligatory?

What is Byrnes' primary purpose for the curfew?

What previous conservation measures did the Office of War Mobilization take? Why? Did they help? Why/why not?

Why does Byrnes think people will comply?

Think about your own experience with the stay-at-home orders, how does that compare to the experience of Delawareans during WWII?

How do you think people felt? Did the curfews provide a sense of security? A sense of wartime duty? Anxiety?

Curfew—

Continued From First Page

...to save coal consumed in

SCARCITY

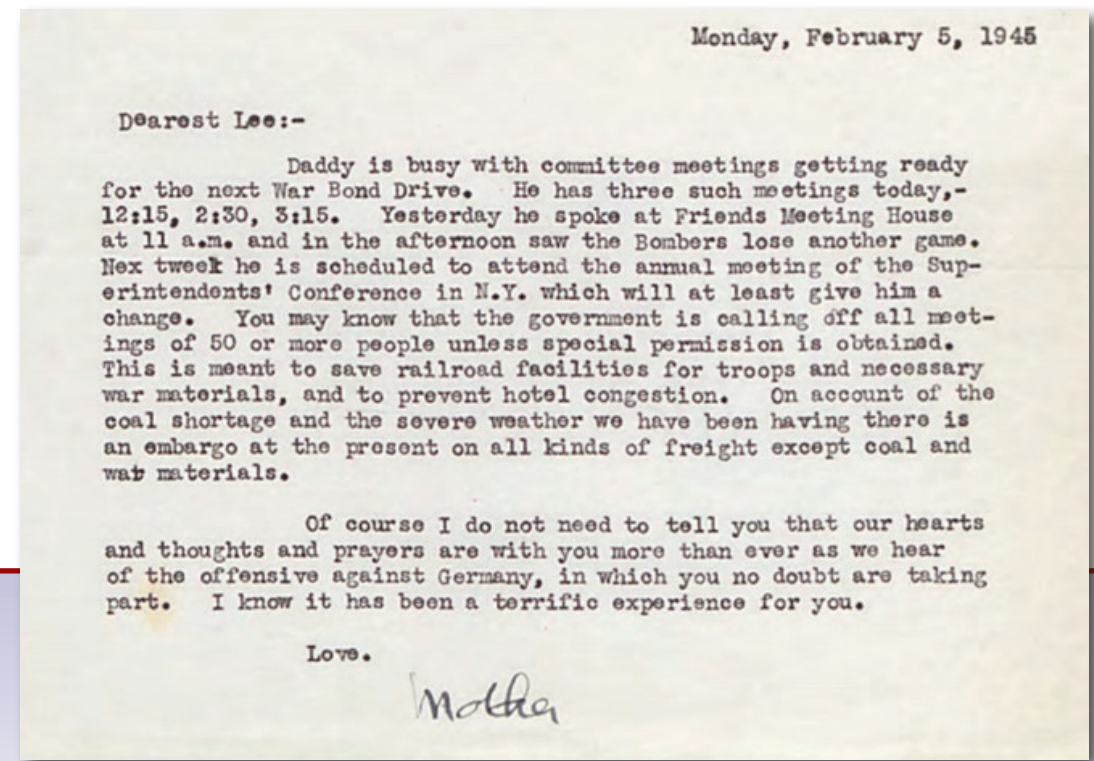
Read the letter and answer the questions that follow.

From Edna Minker to her son, 1st Lieutenant Lee Minker. Lee is a command pilot with the 8th Army Air Force stationed at Rattlesden Air Force Base. He named his plane Blue Hen Chick to honor his Delaware roots.

Wilmington, DE
February 5, 1945.

Dearest Lee:-

Daddy is busy with committee meetings getting ready for the next War Bond Drive. He has three such meetings today,- 12:15, 2:30, 3:15. ...You may know that the government is calling off all meetings of 50 or more people unless special permission is obtained. This is meant to save railroad facilities for troops and necessary war materials, and to prevent hotel congestion. On account of the coal shortage and the severe weather we have been having, there is an embargo at the present on all kinds of freight except coal and war materials.



Mrs. Minker reports that the government called off all meetings of 50 people or more. What reasons were given for this action? How will cancelling those meetings help conserve for the war effort?

How does Mrs. Minker feel about the coal shortage and conservation efforts?

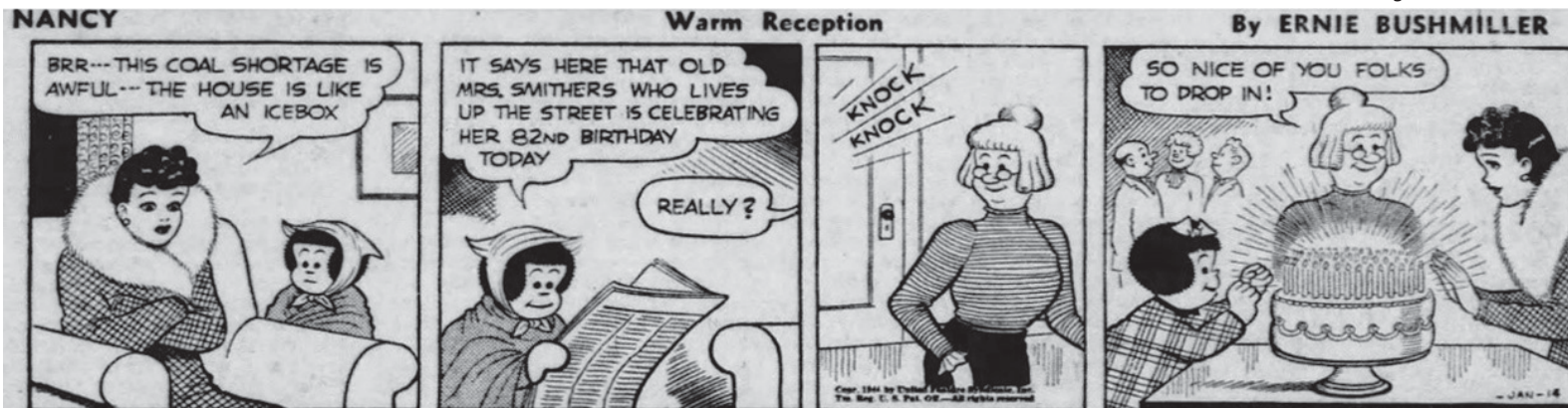
How would a coal shortage affect Mrs. Minker's life? What would she have to do without?

How did the stay-at-home order change your daily life? What did you do to help adapt to the new way of living?

Large gatherings continue to be limited because of the pandemic, just as meetings were restricted to 50 people or less during WWII. **Were there any large gatherings or events that you were supposed to attend but were canceled because of COVID? Weddings? Birthdays? Concerts?**

Coal wasn't the only shortage that the Minkers and other Americans suffered. As more and more resources were needed for the war effort, Americans found it difficult to find certain items and rationing became necessary.

The Morning News 14 Jan 1944



The Morning News 15 Jan 1944



Use the comic strips on the previous page to answer the questions below.

Did you have to give anything up during the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, what?

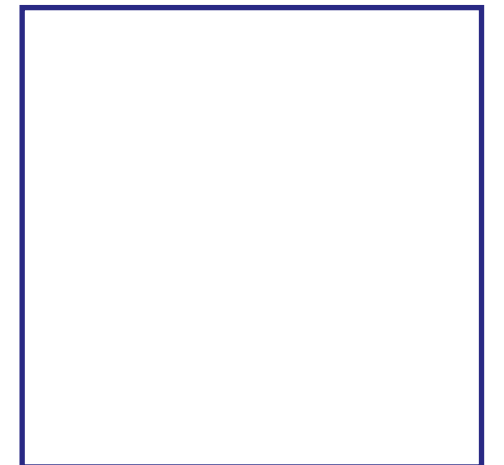
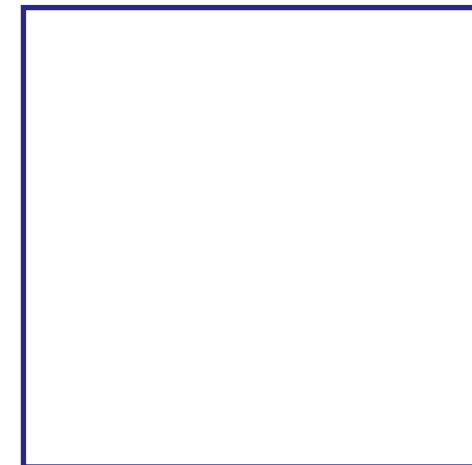
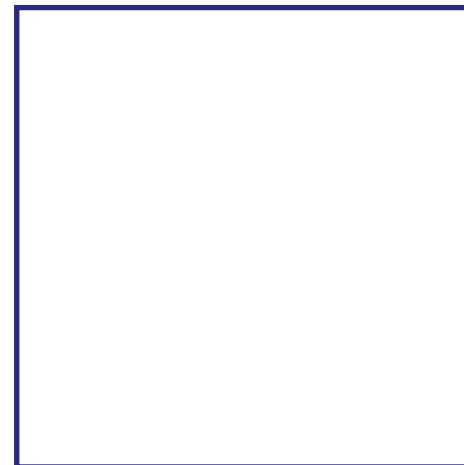
Are there any foods or snacks that you couldn't get because shops were or are closed or stores had run out?

Think about an item that was hard to get because of shortages during COVID-19. Use the template below to create a comic about that item like the two comics on the previous page.

(Large templates available in appendix)

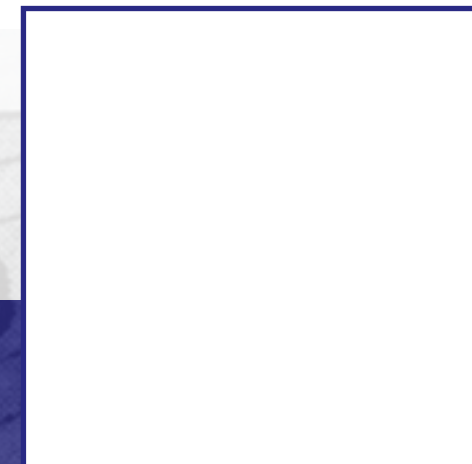
title

date



title

date



RATIONING



During the First World War, battles destroyed farmland in Europe and the U.S. government needed to ensure that American and Allied troops had the food supplies they needed. Shortly after America entered the war, the U.S. Food Administration was established to manage wartime distribution and transportation of food. Posters were made encouraging Americans to reduce consumption of certain goods like meat, sugar, and wheat, calling for "Meatless Mondays" and "Wheatless Wednesdays". But this was not a government issued food-rationing program; it was voluntary. It relied on the patriotism of American citizens to conserve food in support of the war effort.

What does rationing mean?

"Rationing Means a Fair Share for all of Us" poster (1941-1945), Office of Price Administration, National Archives and Records Administration

How do these posters help you understand what rationing means? How do they help you understand what goods were needed?

Why do you think rationing is important? How can it help a country in times of trouble?

In 1941, when America entered World War II, there was such a shortage of food and materials on the warfront that it was clear voluntary methods of conservation would not be as effective as they had been decades earlier. Imported food was being restricted, harvests were rerouted to troops overseas, and the wartime need for rubber caused tire shortages, limiting the transportation of goods in America. For these reasons, and many others, the government passed the Emergency Price Control Act (EPCA).

The EPCA granted the Office of Price Administration the authority to regulate price limits and ration food and other goods during the war. This was done in an attempt to keep people from hoarding food and to equally share the already scarce resources.

Below is a letter written by Edna Minker to her son, Lee Minker, a pilot stationed at Thunderbird Field, Phoenix, New Mexico.

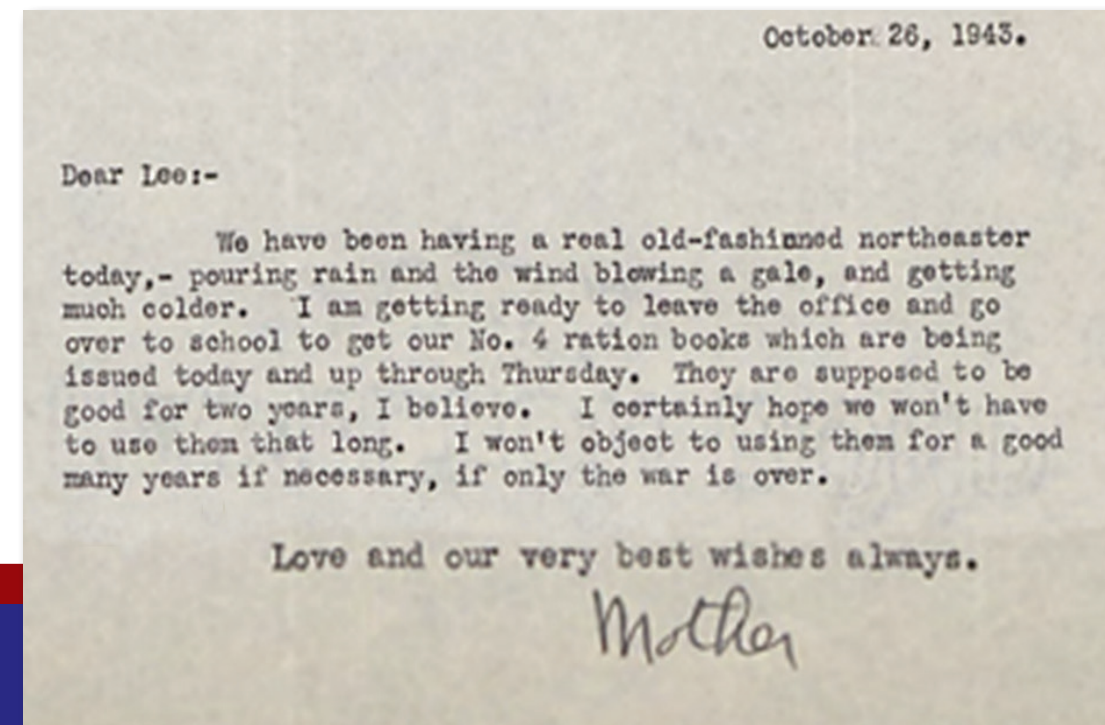
Wilmington, DE October 26, 1943

Dear Lee:

We have been having a real old-fashioned northeaster today, - pouring rain and the wind blowing a gale, and getting much colder. I am getting ready to leave the office and go over to school to get our No. 4 ration books which are being issued today and up through Thursday. They are supposed to be good for two years, I believe. I certainly hope we won't have to use them that long. I won't object to using them for a good many years if necessary, if only the war is over.

Love and our very best wishes always.

Mother



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:)

Hudgins Anne Garrett
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)
3118 Swift
(Street No. or P. O. Box No.) (Street or R. F. D.)
Houston Harris Texas
(City or town) (County) (State)

5 ft. *7* in. *154* lbs. *Blue* *Brown* *44* yrs. Sex Male Female
(Height) (Weight) (Color of eyes) (Color of hair) (Age)
 has been issued the attached War Ration Stamps this *6* 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.)
Beth Nichols Boddeke (Signature)
(Registrar)
 Local Board No. *14102* County *Harris* State *Texas*

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



Use the letter on the previous page to answer the following questions.

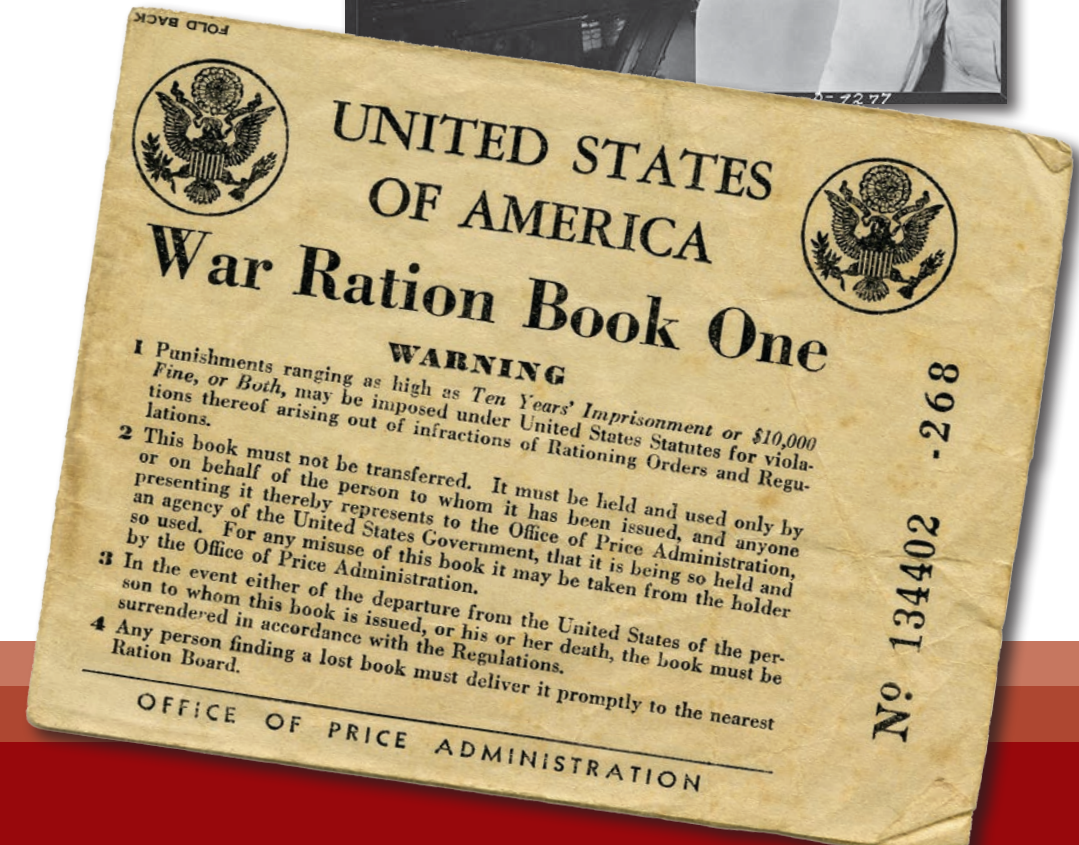
When did Mrs. Minker write this letter?

Courtesy of Library of Congress



What does this letter tell you about Mrs. Minker's view on the war?

What are ration books?



In the spring of 1942, coupons were needed to purchase sugar, and a few months later a voucher was needed to purchase coffee. By March 1943, meat, cheese, canned fish, canned milk, and some other processed foods were added to the growing list of rationed goods.

Every American received a ration book containing stamps or vouchers that would be used to purchase rationed items. It was based on a point system. Certain types of food were split into two categories — blue points were given to canned, bottled, and dried food and red points were given to meat, fish and dairy — and then points were given to individual food products. Each ration book contained a standard number of points, for example 48 blue points and 64 red points, which could be adjusted based on the supply and demand of certain goods.

Do you think this was an easy or complex system to follow?

Americans were restricted to purchasing only the items that they had enough points for. It often meant that families needed to plan out their meals well in advance, to make sure everything they needed fit in to their allotted number of points.

What was Mrs. Minker's view on ration books? How do you know that?

Why was rationing necessary during WWII?

What lessons can we learn from rationing during WWII that can help us adapt to what is happening with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020?

Look at the two posters.

What are some things that you notice?

Is food the only thing that needed to be rationed?

Which of these posters reflects a scarcity that America has today in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?



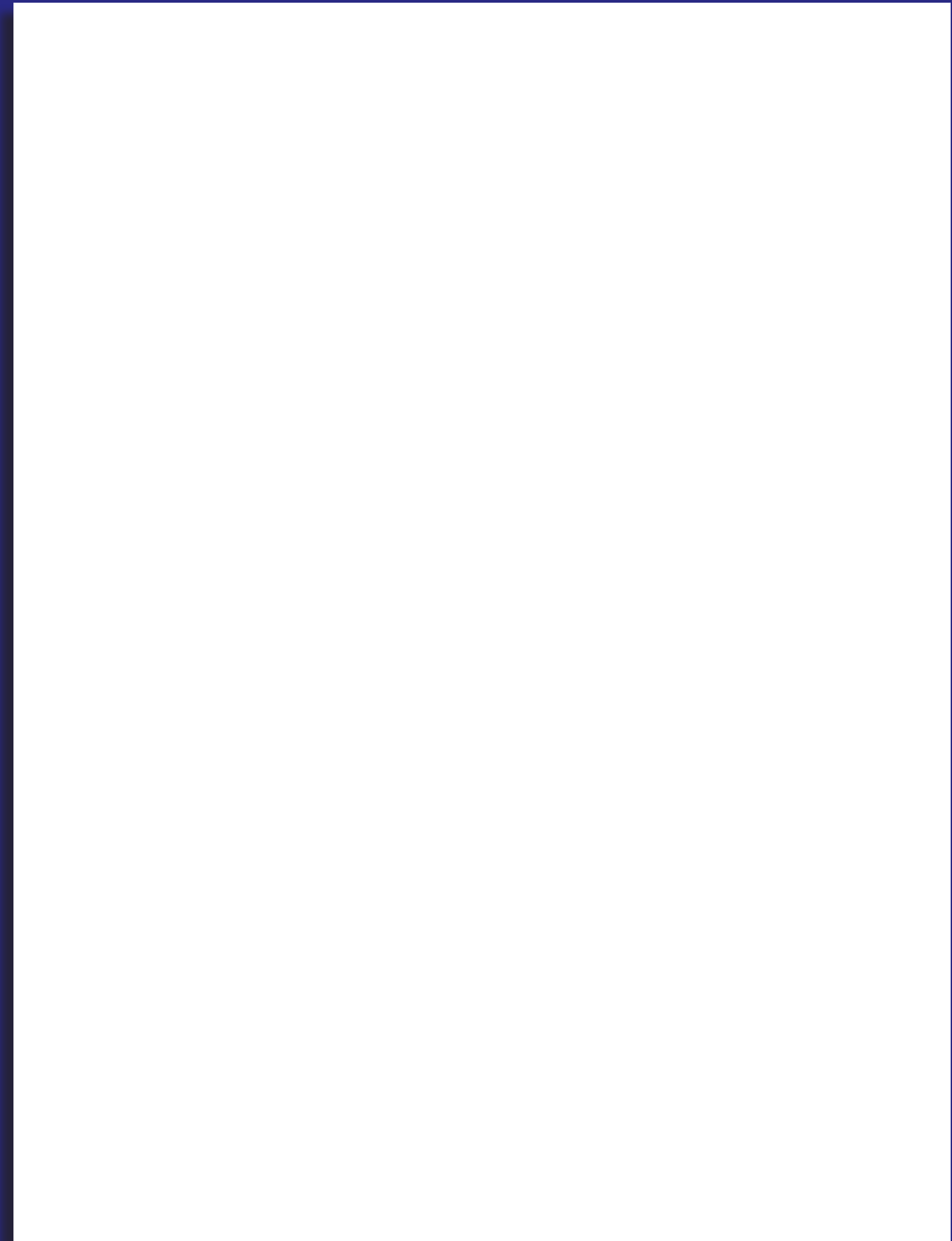
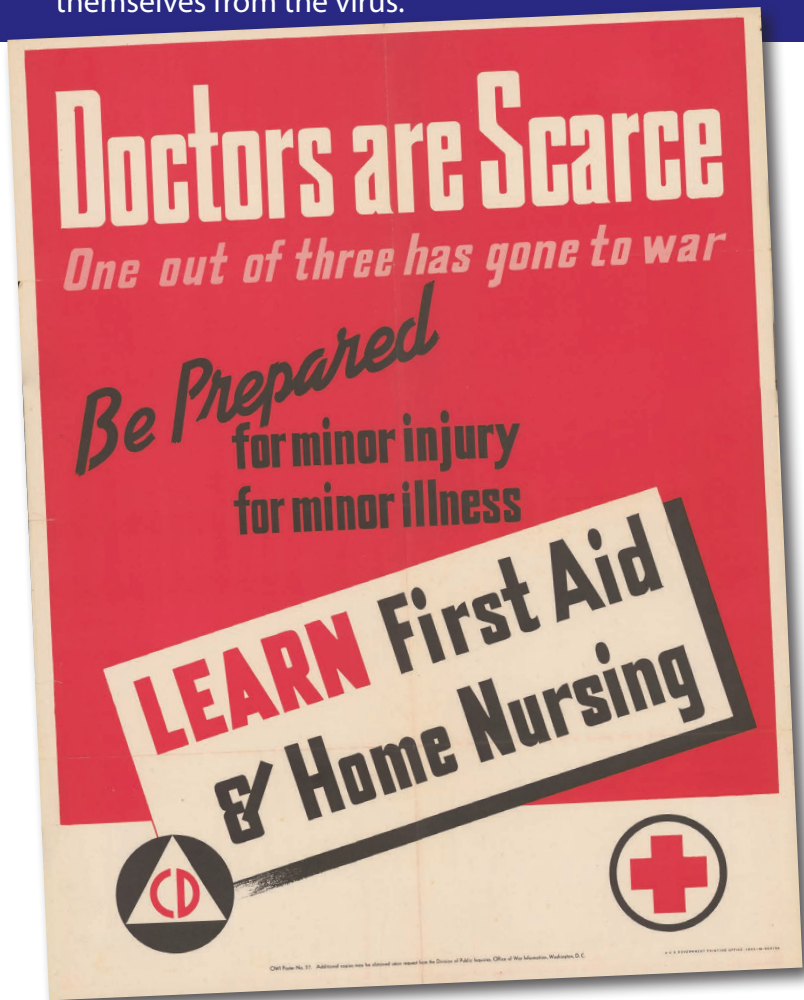
Draw a poster urging people to conserve PPE.

You may have heard about PPE, or Personal Protective Equipment, shortages. In the early days of the corona virus outbreak doctors and nurses were quickly running out of the protective masks, gloves, and other gear that they needed to keep themselves and their patients safe and healthy. Even outside of hospitals, people were rushing to stores to stock up on the things they thought they would need to protect themselves from the virus.

What are some products that quickly sold out of stores as stay-at-home orders were issued? Were there any items that surprised you?

Some grocery stores limited the number of certain items you could purchase (i.e. 2 loaves of bread per shopper, 4 bags of frozen veggies) but it's not an official ration. **Should the government ration certain supplies during a crisis such as COVID-19? Why or why not?**

Do you think there are certain supplies that should be rationed?



As masks and gloves became scarce, for doctors and civilians, some people got creative! Videos showing how to make facemasks out of old articles of clothing and coffee filters or scarves and hair-ties quickly popped up all over the Internet. Items that may otherwise have been thrown away are now useful just like in the poster asking for waste fat to be saved to make explosives.

Take a look at the items below and read what they were used for on the home front. Then, try and come up with a use they may have had for troops during WWII.



Rationed Item	Impact on the homefront	What was the war-time reason?
Gas	Average person was able to buy 5 gallons a week using coupons.	
Silk	Could not buy nylon stockings or clothing made of silk.	
Butter	Need coupons to buy, limited supply. Baked goods had to use substitutes.	
Fats & Oils	Cooking oils were not available. Housewives saved bacon and other types of fat which was turned in meat dealers or butcher shops.	
Metals: steel, aluminum, zinc, copper	Items made of metal were not available. ex: cars, typewriters, refrigerators Drives to collect scrap metals were popular.	



BASEBALL IN A TIME OF CRISIS

What else changes during times of crisis? Sometimes activities you think wouldn't be affected are, and they either need to adapt, or stop all together.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor and the US officially entered WWII, hundreds of Major League baseball players enlisted in support of their country. Once Major League baseball season started up again in 1942, many questioned whether it was possible or even appropriate to continue to hold baseball games.

Why would it be inappropriate to hold national baseball games during WWII?

What are some reasons to continue with baseball and other sports during war time?

Warns Game Must Not Interfere With War Production

By **BOB CONSIDINE**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (INS)—President Roosevelt today gave professional baseball another green light—a pale one, to be sure, but nonetheless pure emerald in color and intent.

The Chief Executive and nation's No. 1 fan told reporters assembled at the final press conference of his third term in office that he is still all in favor of baseball's continuance.

He warned, however, that he is opposed to participation in baseball of healthy young men. And he counselled baseball not to interfere with war production and general war needs.

Says People Want Baseball

Mr. Roosevelt told White House attaches after the conference that the 1944 season had proved to him that the people want baseball and that they'll support the game even if most of the stars are now in uniform. Official attendance figures for 1944 show heavy gains over 1943 and 1942.

He would like, however, to see the sport function with fewer obviously healthy young men.

Early Backs Move

"I think you're right, Mr. President," Early answered. "The people will continue to support baseball, and they'll go in droves if there's a tight pennant race—regardless of how few good players there are on the field."

The President, who follows the game as closely as he can in these grim days, though he hasn't had time to toss out the opening ball of a big league season for several years, said that he knew of certain muscular stars who would look better in war work than in sports.

He named no names, but from his tone he seemed to have more than one player's name on the tip of his tongue. He didn't believe their loss would seriously hurt the game.

No Opposition Likely

The President's boost for baseball, first since three years ago when he gave the game the so-called green light which has enabled it to continue through the war, is naturally not official.

But it isn't likely that any government department, including the War Manpower Commission—which ruled out racing on Jan. 3 and glowered at other professional sports—will go against his wishes.

The President's first green light for the national pastime came not long after Pearl Harbor when he was asked if baseball would be permitted to continue. He gave the game his hearty endorsement at that time, but warned it, somewhat as he warned it today, not to interfere with the war.

As a result, the late Judge Landis curtailed traveling by the teams, ruled that they must do their spring training in the North, as close as possible to their regular home fields. Hundreds of well-known ball players were taken into service but the game prospered, what with tons of fresh money in the pockets of hard-working baseball fans.

President Favors Continuance; Says People Want Sport

Read the article on the previous page to answer the following questions.

President Roosevelt was in favor of baseball continuing during the war even as factories were working around the clock. What reason does the article give for the President's opinion?

What restrictions did Roosevelt want if baseball were to continue? Why?

What warning was implicit in Roosevelt's approval?

What restrictions for baseball were already in place? Why?

What impact did rationing have on baseball during WWII? How does this compare with the impact that COVID-19 is having on sports?

WILMINGTON PARK, HOME OF THE BLUE ROCKS DURING WWII

Letter from Air Cadet Ralph Lee Minker, Jr. to his mother in Wilmington, DE. Lee was writing from Santa Ana Army Air Base, Santa Ana, CA, the classification school that determined whether or not he would become a pilot. The Army Air Corps Base had a baseball team with some notable players.

Monday evening
June 27, 1943

Dear Mother,

I think I'm in! Having finished my psychological, mental, aptitude and physical tests at 3:00 P.M. this afternoon... By the way, among the notables stationed here are Joe Dimaggio, Merle Hapes (all American of Mississippi State who outwits Joe on the ball team). And Larry Adler (the great harmonica player).

Monday evening
June 27, 1943

Dear Mother,
I think I'm in! Having finished my psychological, mental, aptitude and physical tests at 3:00 P.M. this afternoon... 15,000 men marched. By the way, among the notables stationed here are Joe Dimaggio, Merle Hapes (all American of Mississippi State who outwits Joe on the ball team), and Larry Adler (the great harmonica player).



During WWII, the Blue Rocks were Delaware's minor league baseball team. Play continued as usual at Wilmington Park. In fact, in 1944, the Blue Rocks broke their own attendance record with 172,531 fans attending games. Look closely at this image to answer the questions below.

What is happening in the image?

How crowded are the stands?

What does this tell us about the popularity of baseball during WWII?

Why do you think people enjoyed going to baseball games during the war?

V-Mail letter from Edna Minker to her son, 1st Lieutenant Lee Minker:

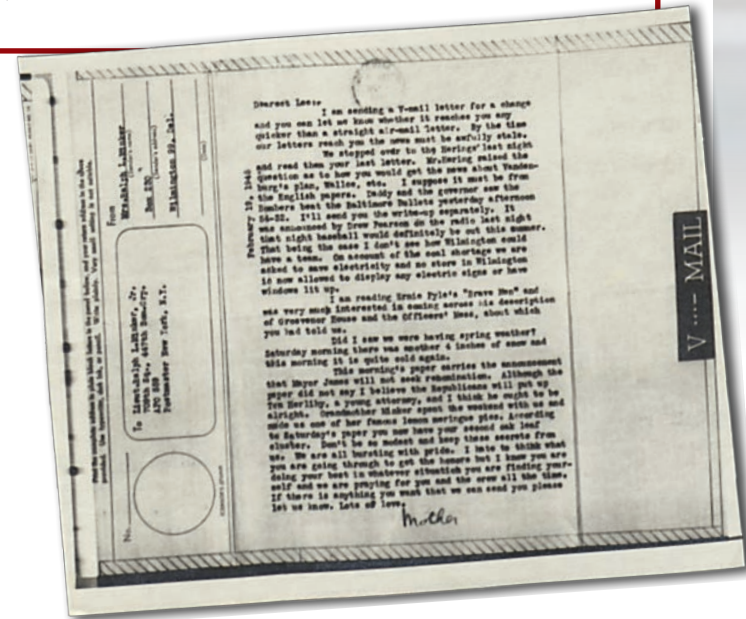
Wilmington, Delaware

February 19, 1945

Dearest Lee:-

I am sending a V-mail letter for a change and you can let me know if it reaches you any quicker than a straight air-mail letter... It was announced by Drew Pearson on the radio last night that night baseball would definitely be out this summer. That being the case I don't see how Wilmington could have a team. On account of the coal shortage we are asked to save electricity and no store in Wilmington is now allowed to display any electric signs or have windows lit up.

Why would night baseball "definitely be out this summer?" What restrictions are in place that might prevent night baseball during the war?



Why would Lee be interested in hearing that baseball may not continue? Who does Lee mention in the previous letter? Do you think Lee is a baseball fan?

Headline from The Morning News, February 20, 1945.

Midnight Curfew Ordered For Night Spots, Theatres

Byrnes Invokes Manpower Controls to Make February 26 'Request' Obligatory; Purpose to Save Coal and Light

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—A midnight curfew was proclaimed today for night clubs, theatres, road houses, saloons and all other "places of entertainment" throughout the nation. The action, taken by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes becomes effective Feb. 26, and is expected to make New York's Broadway and countless other amusement centers look like deserted villages after the stroke of 12.

Almost 4 months later, Wilmington Park advertised Family Night.

FAMILY NIGHT
Fri., June 15th---8:30
BASEBALL
BLUE ROCKS VS. YORK
25 AWARDS
ADMISSION—INCLUDING TAX
Men 50c—Ladies and Children 35c

Based on the headline, do you think Mrs. Minker is correct in her assumption that night baseball would be cancelled?

Ad from The Morning News, Wilmington, DE. June 15, 1945.



The COVID-19 crisis has caused sporting events around the world to cancel or postpone. This is the most significant disruption of sports since WWII. In the 1940s baseball was the only national sport— games were attended by millions. Hundreds of professional baseball players enlisted during the war, others were drafted. Lee tells the family that Joe DiMaggio was playing for the Army Air Corps team at Santa Ana Army Airbase. "Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio, a New York Yankee, was later considered one of the best players of all time. Even with the shortage of professional players, President Roosevelt supported major league baseball.

How do you feel about the cancellation or postponement of your favorite sport during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Has your school canceled or postponed sporting events? What impact does this have on your school community?

Do you think some sports will lose popularity because they cannot be played, either by professionals or by schools? Which ones?

Should sports stars still get paid or should their contracts be suspended if games are postponed or canceled? How does the lack of sporting events hurt the local economy?

Rationing Quiz Answer Key

Rationed Item	What was the war-time reason?
Gas	Massive shortage due to gas supplies diverted for the war effort. There also was a need to cut down on driving to save on tires. Japanese invasion of the Dutch East Indies cut off the supply of rubber.
Silk	Supply of silk came from the Pacific which the Japanese controlled. Silk was used for parachutes, ammunition bags for ships.
Butter	Butter was made from milk. Demand for milk products such as cheese and powdered milk was high. Troops overseas used powdered milk.
Fats & Oils	Navy used lard to grease the guns. A pound of fat could be turned into a pound of glycerin which was used for explosives.
Metals	Production of wartime materials such as tanks, ships, planes, was a major factor in winning WWII. It took 18 tons of metal to build a single tank.

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—A midnight curfew was proclaimed today for night clubs, theatres, road houses, saloons and all other "places of entertainment" throughout the nation.

The action, taken by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes becomes effective Feb. 26, and is expected to make New York's Broadway and countless other amusement centers look like deserted villages after the stroke of 12.

Byrnes' mandate took the form of a "request" to operators of entertainment places, from swank night spot to neighborhood movie, to have their patrons out and the doors locked up by midnight.

But Byrnes invoked manpower controls to make compliance, to all intents, obligatory. He said he would ask the War Manpower Commission to "deny ceilings to any places violating this request." This would deprive such establishments of employees.

Effect in Delaware

(The principal effect of the new Byrnes directive in Delaware will be to force the earlier closing of private clubs and tap rooms it was explained here last night. While the clubs are required under Delaware law to stop selling liquor at midnight—just as tap rooms are—some of the clubs normally remain open for several hours beyond the closing of the bars.

(Tap rooms stop serving at midnight and normally put out their lights by 12:30 or before. Strict enforcement of the lights out at midnight rule would mean the tap rooms will have to stop serving a little earlier to get patrons out at midnight. Theatres and other establishments listed are normally closed before the new curfew.)

The War Production Board, the Office of Defense Transportation and the Office of Price Administration also were asked to aid the WMC as far as possible in enforcing the "request."

Byrnes said his purpose "is pri-

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Curfew—

Continued From First Page

marily to save coal consumed in heating and in providing electricity. But it will also be helpful in the fields of transportation, manpower and in other ways."

Places of entertainment were defined as all night clubs, sport arenas, theatres, dance halls, road houses, saloons, bars, "and other similar enterprises, whether public or private, excluding restaurants engaged exclusively in serving food."

Order Means Full Close

Closing at midnight means that patrons shall leave in time to permit full closing by that time, the Byrnes announcement said.

"The War Manpower Commission will be requested to deny ceilings to any places violating this request," the statement said.

In announcing the broad step, Byrnes said:

"Conservation measures previously taken by the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, including reduction of travel, the elimination of the use of electricity in outdoor advertising, the lowering of temperatures in government buildings and an appeal to the public to lower temperatures in homes do not appear to suffice in view of the coal shortage.

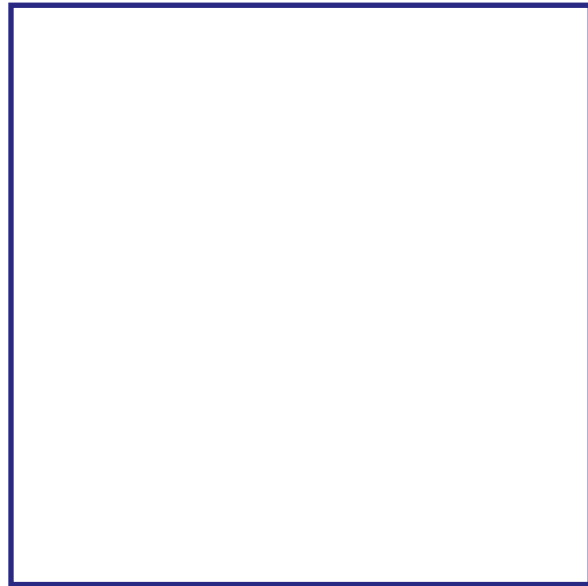
"I am advised by the War Production Board that the industrial coal stocks on hand are inadequate.

"Unfavorable weather conditions and possible spring floods render

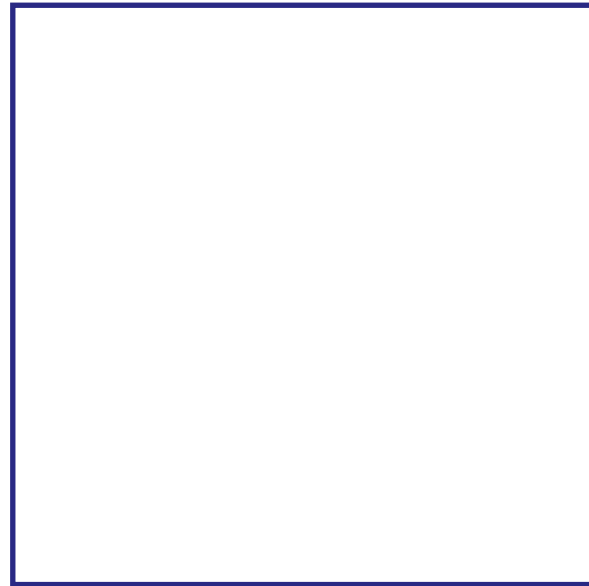
the coal situation even more serious than a few weeks ago.

"The closing of places of entertainment at midnight should impose no real hardships, and I am convinced our people at home will gladly comply with this request in view of the fact that in the period just ahead of us those in the armed services will be making greater sacrifices than ever before."

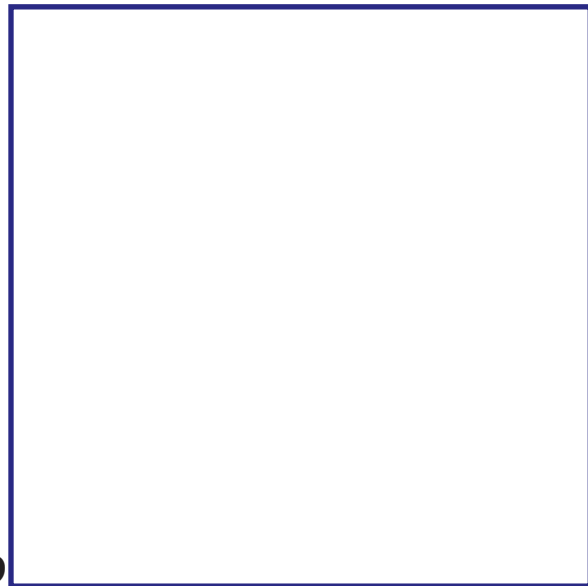
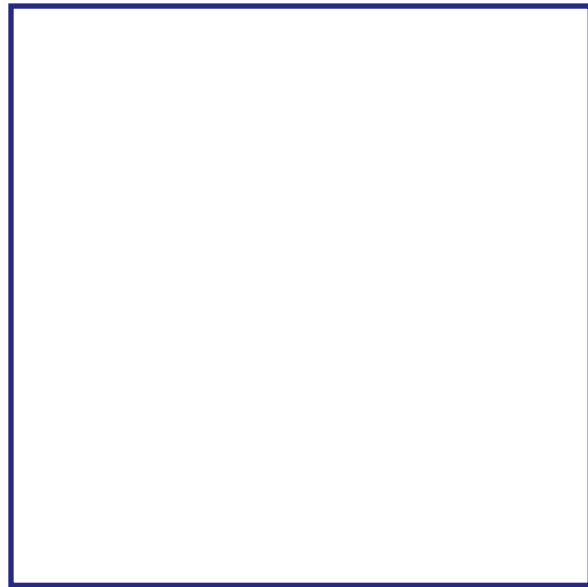
The Byrnes statement said he felt sure "that state and local officials would cooperate wholeheartedly with the Federal Government in carrying out this objective and in bringing any violations to the attention of the proper authorities."



title



title



date



date

Doctors are Scarce

One out of three has gone to war

Be Prepared
for minor injury
for minor illness

LEARN First Aid
& Home Nursing





Save waste fats for explosives

TAKE THEM TO YOUR MEAT DEALER

Warns Game Must Not Interfere With War Production

By BOB CONSIDINE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (INS)—President Roosevelt today gave professional baseball another green light—a pale one, to be sure, but nonetheless pure emerald in color and intent.

The Chief Executive and nation's No. 1 fan told reporters assembled at the final press conference of his third term in office that he is still all in favor of baseball's continuance.

He warned, however, that he is opposed to participation in baseball of healthy young men. And he counselled baseball not to interfere with war production and general war needs.

Says People Want Baseball

Mr. Roosevelt told White House attaches after the conference that the 1944 season had proved to him that the people want baseball and that they'll support the game even if most of the stars are now in uniform. Official attendance figures for 1944 show heavy gains over 1943 and 1942.

He would like, however, to see the sport function with fewer obviously healthy young men.

Early Backs Move

"I think you're right, Mr. President," Early answered. "The people will continue to support baseball, and they'll go in droves if there's a tight pennant race—regardless of how few good players there are on the field."

The President, who follows the game as closely as he can in these grim days, though he hasn't had time to toss out the opening ball of a big league season for several years, said that he knew of certain muscular stars who would look better in war work than in sports.

He named no names, but from his tone he seemed to have more than one player's name on the tip of his tongue. He didn't believe their loss would seriously hurt the game.

No Opposition Likely

The President's boost for baseball, first since three years ago when he gave the game the so-called green light which has enabled it to continue through the war, is naturally not official.

But it isn't likely that any government department, including the War Manpower Commission—which ruled out racing on Jan. 3 and glowered at other professional sports—will go against his wishes.

The President's first green light for the national pastime came not long after Pearl Harbor when he was asked if baseball would be permitted to continue. He gave the game his hearty endorsement at that time, but warned it, somewhat as he warned it today, not to interfere with the war.

As a result, the late Judge Landis curtailed traveling by the teams, ruled that they must do their spring training in the North, as close as possible to their regular home fields. Hundreds of well-known ball players were taken into service but the game prospered, what with tons of fresh money in the pockets of hard-working baseball fans.

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 NEW YORK OFFICE: CIRCLE 7-0570

9

GENERAL SNAPSHOTS:



AT EASE

October 26, 1943.

Dear Lee:-

We have been having a real old-fashioned northeaster today, - pouring rain and the wind blowing a gale, and getting much colder. I am getting ready to leave the office and go over to school to get our No. 4 ration books which are being issued today and up through Thursday. They are supposed to be good for two years, I believe. I certainly hope we won't have to use them that long. I won't object to using them for a good many years if necessary, if only the war is over.

Love and our very best wishes always.

Mother



THREE VIRGINIANS -
 CLARENCE WOMBLE
 WILLIAM WHITTAKER
 ANDREW WISEMAN

The Delaware Historical Society is grateful for funding for educational materials provided by the Longwood Foundation and Delmarva Power, an Exelon Corporation.

Recently visited London.
London, England - the center
from which Anglo-Saxon culture
and civilization have spread
throughout the world, second largest
city on earth, great financial,
commercial and manufacturing
center, nerve center of the United Nations
victory drive in the west.

After an early morning train
ride from a town near my
present airbase I arrived at a great
London station, caught a ride in one
ancient looking cab and engaged a
room in the Regent Palace Hotel
in Piccadilly Circus, heart of the
entertainment district. After a sparse
wartime English lunch I went
to the well stocked central officers
clothing Post Exchange to purchase
needed clothing, returning to
the hotel for tea. I ate dinner
at the best restaurant in England -
American Officers Mess at the
Provincer House. On the evening

one of a ...
give air and ground
of the 8th Air Force a
altitude close-up view
the results of their

It will perhaps be a new year
when this reaches you. May it be
a year we shall always remember
as the one when hostilities ceased
and men worked as hard to make
a lasting peace as they had to
wage a terrible war!

With all my love
Mother

Sunday evening
May 27, 1945

Dear Mother,

This is a beautiful
May Sunday evening.
I can't help but wonder
how it is back home.
Rumors about the future
are flying thick and fast
but still nothing has
been announced.

Enclosed you will find
film negatives which should
be of interest when developed.
London, crew, buddies, etc.
More will follow. Separately
I am sending a receipt
for another government money
order, pay program and
bringing steel for a victory

Tuesday
N

Dear Shirley,
I recently visited
London, England -
from which Anglo-Saxon
and civilization have
spread throughout the world,
city on earth, great
commercial and manufac-
center, nerve center of
victory drive in the west.

After an early morning
ride from a town near my
present airbase I arrived at a
London station, caught a ride in one
ancient looking cab and engaged a
room in the Regent Palace Hotel
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Provincer House. On the evening