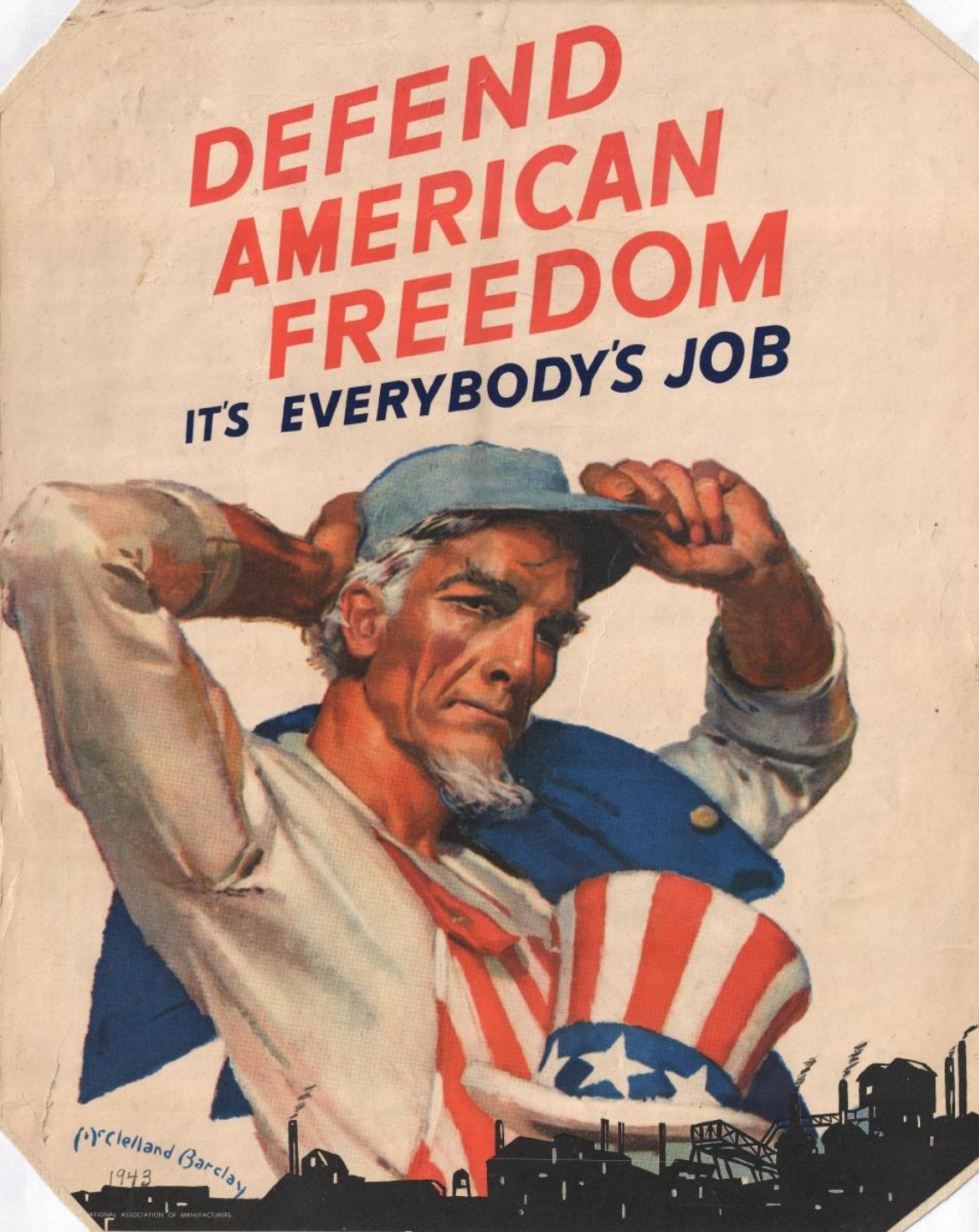


## World War II on the Homefront - Rocky Mount, NC

**DEFEND  
AMERICAN  
FREEDOM**  
**IT'S EVERYBODY'S JOB**







# The Homefront

- While soldiers were doing their part to defeat the Axis powers in Europe and in the Pacific, Americans back home did their part to help in the war effort.
- Whether by assuming jobs they were not accustomed to, doing without things, or finding a new way of life, it was a time when communities pulled together in the war effort.
- Rocky Mount Mills and surrounding areas was no exception.





# Rocky Mount Mills (RMM)

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- RMM provided material for the military in every war America had fought in since its inception in 1818.
- World War II was no exception. RMM cotton yarn production was used for uniforms, parachutes, belts, backpacks, and many other items used by the military to outfit soldiers.
- Through the leadership of Hyman Battle, Rocky Mount Mills was a national leader in production, labor changes and examples of morale.

# The Riverside Bulletin

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY ROCKY MOUNT MILLS FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE ARMED SERVICES.

VOL. 1

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1944

NO. 2

## Clarence Davis Injured In Invasion Of Sicily

### SPINNING DEPARTMENT

Clarence Davis, shipfitter in the  
U. S. Navy, son of Mrs. W. B. Davis

## Keep It A Secret

Absolute knowledge have I none,  
But my aunt's washerwoman's  
sister's son

Heard a policeman on his beat  
Say to a laborer in the street

## Cpl. Frank Hall Writes About Getting Package

Below is another of the many let-  
ters received by us from our em-  
ployees in service.

- The Riverside Bulletin was produced at Rocky Mount Mills for soldiers who had been employed there, their families, and current employees.
- This publication gives insight into the time period, work and life at the Mill, and the relationship between soldiers overseas and the home front of Rocky Mount, NC.
- Review the issue provided to you and answer the corresponding questions.



# The Riverside Bulletin

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY ROCKY MOUNT MILLS FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE ARMED SERVICES.

VOL. 1

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL, 19th, 1944 *RMM + JCC* NO. 5

## MILL TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

### Order Forty-Eight Hour Week For Cotton Mills Throughout Country

The War Manpower Commission has just issued an order making all textile plants operate on a 48-hour week basis effective May 14. This is the fourth industry in our country ordered to work on a 48-hour week basis and is made necessary by a continuing decline in production essential to the war effort.

This order will not affect the Rocky Mount Mills, since we have been on a 48-hour week for several years, but it will force those plants now working on a 40-hour basis to go to a 48-hour week, with a subsequent increase in production.

This is further evidence of the fact that textile production, especially yarn, is a most vital part of the war program and that all of us are helping win the war just as much as if we were making planes, tanks or guns.

### FOR THE MARINES

The Rocky Mount Cord Company has just been awarded a large contract for Marine Corps legging lacing. For the last several years the Marine Corps has gotten all of its legging lacing from the Cord Company and any of our boys in the Marine Corps may know that their legging was made from our yarn out of cotton grown within a few miles of Rocky Mount as the mill supplies the Cord Company with all of their yarn for this item.

### Rosa Glasgow Has Been Here For 25 Years

#### FINISHING DEPARTMENT

By Betty Gibson

It seems that Cutheral Joyner has let some one wear his class ring. If you should look close enough you could find it on Irene Carter's finger.

### WPB Gives Authority Enlargement Program At Rocky Mount Mills

The War Production Board has just issued an authorization for the Mills to proceed with an enlargement program that will increase production forty thousand pounds per week. The project was approved because the plant is producing badly needed yarns for the war effort and this extra production will be placed at the disposal of the War Production Board.

A new building will be constructed adjoining the present lapper room and will extend 128 feet towards the wheel house. A new lapper, thirty-one cards, 108 deliveries of drawing, 2 slubbers and 4 interdrafts will be installed on the top floor.

Spinning will be placed in the new building on the first floor and all of the spinning frames from No. 1 will go into the main mill.

The Abbott winders will be moved to No. 1 and two new ones will be added. A unique method of handling

- Why do you think RMM needed to increase production?
- Why was yarn a "vital part of the war program?"
- What clues does this page offer in terms of a war's impact on the economy?

Listen to [Lorene Smith](#) discuss working at RMM during World War II.

# What products were made from the yarn at Rocky Mount Mills?

## PARTIAL LIST OF WARTIME USES OF ROCKY MOUNT MILLS YARNS

Aircraft Engine Covers	Cooking Outfit Kits	Land Mine Grapnel	Pyrotechnic Parachute
Aircraft Safety Belts	Curtains	Cord	Cord
Artillery Covers	Dispatch Cases	Lead Lines (Navy)	Rope
Bandoleers	Fatigue Uniforms	Leggings	Rucksacks
Barracks Bags	Feed Bags	Legging Cord	Sails
Bedding Rolls	First Aid Pouches	Machete Sheaths	Sand Bags
Belts	Gas Masks	Machine Gun Ammunition Slings	Shelter Tents
Camouflage Netting	Gun Slings	Magazine Pockets	Signal Corps Wire
Canteen Covers	Gun Swabbing	Pack Carriers	Stretchers
Caps	Halyard Cord	Pack Mule Water Bags	Tarpaulins
Cartridge Belts	Hatch Covers	Parachute Bags	Truck Tops
Coal Bags	Haversacks	Pistol Belts	Utility Repair Shops
Command Car Tops	Lacing for WAAC		Water Bags and Buckets
Cooking Bags	Raincoats		Water Sterilizing Bags

## Who worked at RMM during WWII?

- With men called overseas, there was a need for new labor in factories, farms, mills, etc.
- Young people and women began to fill that void, taking the place of their male counterparts.
- This also opened up opportunities for African Americans, although RMM wouldn't see a true integration of workers until after the 1964 Civil Rights Act.





# We Can Do It!



## Women in the Work Force

- By 1945, the number of women in the workplace had increased by 50%.
- By the end of World War II, 57% of all people employed outside of military service were women.

Listen to [Lo Bowen](#) discuss her experiences at RMM during WWII. She began working at RMM in 1945 as a 15-year-old.



# Women During WWII

- World War II provided unprecedented opportunities for American women to enter into jobs that had never before been open to them, particularly in the defense industry.
- Women faced discrimination, but still 350,000 of them served the military in some capacity and five million joined the workforce between 1940-1945.
- Many occupations previously thought of as exclusive to men, such as the aircraft industry, had majority of workers who were women by 1943.
- About 1/3 of women remained employed after the war.





## Women at Rocky Mount Mills Rose to the Occasion

### Women Doing Fine Job In Carding Department

#### CARDING DEPARTMENT

The war has brought a lot of changes to the carding department. When all you husky fellows joined the Army, Navy, Marines and the Seebies it was up to the women to step in and do your work. Up to eighteen months ago there was only one woman employee. But look at the situation now!

Today, we have women stripping cards, doffing cards, running drawframes, doffing fly frames, running fly frames, sweeping and cleaning drawframes.





**Production Figures**

One hundred per cent of the production of the Rocky Mount Mills is now going into war work. Below are the figures on the production:

Year ago .....	237,253 lbs.
Prev. week .....	252,676 lbs.
Last week .....	250,583 lbs.

The mills, with women as the main laborers, were finishing *more* product than the year before when men were the main labor force!

## More Production

Dear Co-Worker:

When you read the letters received from our boys in service saying how much they appreciate THE RIVERSIDE BULLETIN and the production being put out by us, you can bet your bottom dollar that they mean it; for without us and our comrades in production they cannot fight and without them we cannot have the freedom to work and produce the material needed to carry on this global war. We want them to know that we are backing them and shall continue to do so and the best way to show our appreciation for their great sacrifice is through our production figures.

Production has been increasing right along but it takes an awful lot of textiles to furnish our armed forces so you see every pound helps and that extra pound that you might produce will probably be made into the very item needed to protect one of our boys from harm—so let's show our appreciation through pounds and more pounds.



**Do with less—  
so they'll have  
enough!**



**RATIONING GIVES YOU YOUR FAIR SHARE**

## Rationing

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- Men overseas needed calories and protein.
- In general, GI's were provided meals that contained in excess of 3,000 calories and 100 grams of protein.
- To ensure those in the war had enough nutrition, US citizens participated in rations.

# Rationing

Examples of products that were rationed by the OPA included:

Sugar

Fish

Coffee

Dairy

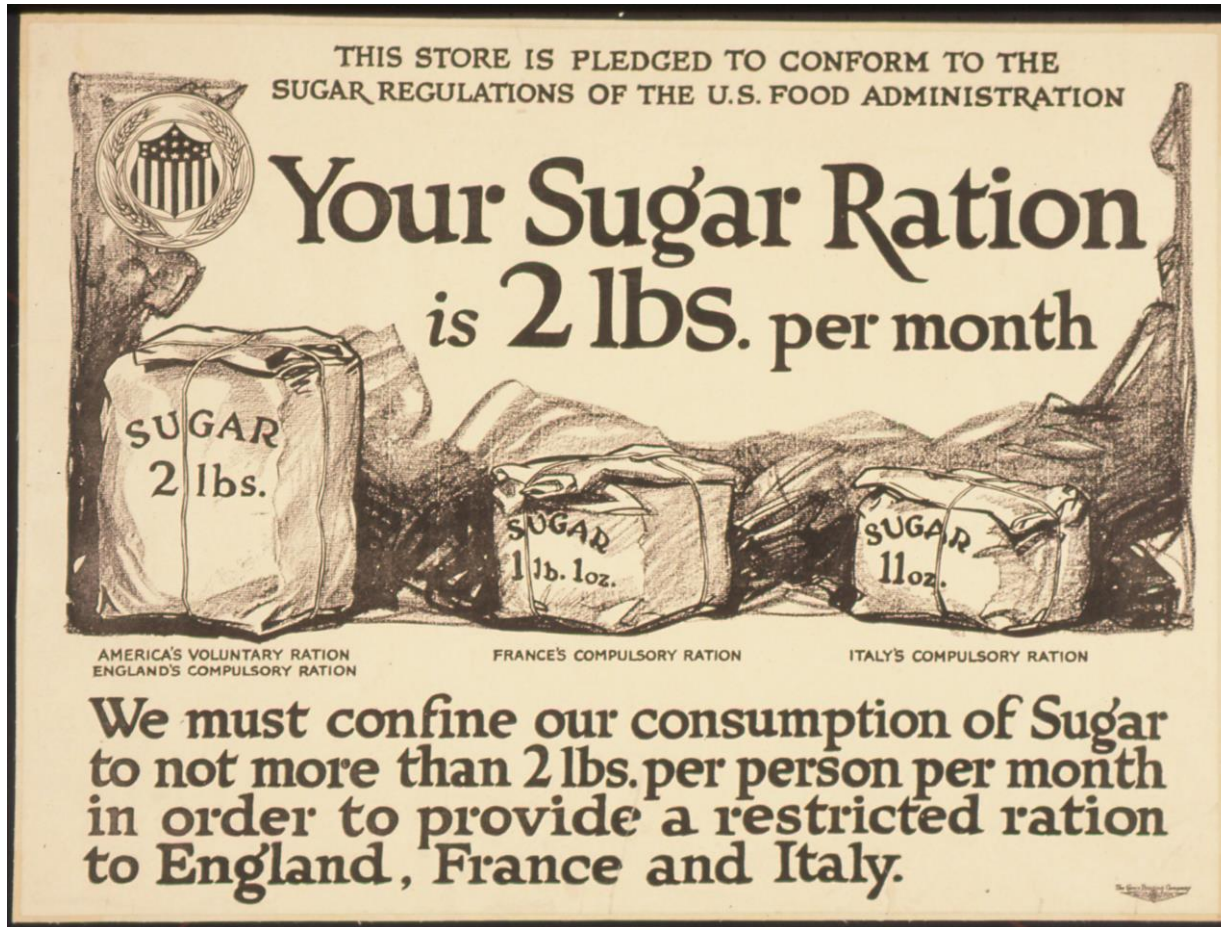
Meat

Canned Milk

Cheese

Fuel

Fats



*The Office of Price Administration (OPA), put price limits and food rations on many goods and products.*



543187 DB

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

**WAR RATION BOOK TWO**  
IDENTIFICATION

*Whitley Myrtle Melton*  
(Name of person to whom book is issued)

*Bethel* (Street number or rural route) *N.C.* *31* *7*  
(City or post office) (State) (Age) (Sex)

ISSUED BY LOCAL BOARD No. *45-50* *Pitt.* *N. Car.*  
(County) (State)

*Bethel, N.C.*  
(City)

By *Evelyn Martin*  
(Signature of issuing officer)

SIGNATURE *Myrtle M. Whitley*  
(To be signed by the person to whom this book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf)

**WARNING**

- 1 This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell or give it to any other person, or to use it, or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods for the person to whom it was issued.
- 2 This book must be returned to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it, if the person to whom it was issued is inducted into the armed services of the United States, or leaves the country for more than 30 days, or dies. The address of the Board appears above.
- 3 A person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it.
- 4 PERSONS WHO VIOLATE RATIONING REGULATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO \$10,000 FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.

OPA FORM NO. R-121 10-30853-4



- Consumers not only had to have the money to pay for a product but ration stamps as well.
- Merchants had to post how many stamps a product required.







How did rationing affect the people at Rocky Mount Mills?

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## Rufus Jones Says He Needs More Grease

COLORED NEWS  
By Rufus Jones

Well friends, I guess you all are wondering why you did not hear from me last week and this is why. Last week was a very rainy week here and I was so busy wanting to catch up with the grass until I just didn't take the time to get in my report but I hope all of you will excuse me for not reporting and be looking forward to hearing from me regular in the future.

If anybody has any meat, lard, oil or grease of any description, even castor oil, please contact us mill boys as we really need it and can use any type of it. It doesn't have to be hog meat in particular. I heard one of my friends say, "Just name it meat and it's all right with me".

LY 26th, 1944 *Rufus Jones* NUMBER 18

## Guy Bunn Lonesome Since Gas Ran Out

By Balmrelee Watson

Guy Bunn says it was really his car that the girls were after. Since his gas has given out, and he has to pump up his bicycle tires, the girls don't flock after him any more.

Guy spent several days at Norfolk, Va., with his brother who is in the Navy.

## Goats Could Be Used To Relieve Shortage

COLORED NEWS  
By Rufus Jones

The many friends of William H. Battle will be glad to learn that he has returned home from a local hospital after undergoing treatments for several days and is now doing nicely.

With the growing meat shortage in our local stores it looks like we will have to call upon the goat industry of the Rocky Mount Mills to help furnish some meat. Of course, Frank Johnson is ready at any time to respond to the call.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th, 1944.

# WRITES . . . .

## Mrs. Percy Coley Isn't Worrying About Sugar

SPINNING DEPARTMENT  
By Edna Leonard

Mrs. Lula Robinson gave a dinner Sunday in honor of her son, Junior, who was home for the first time in two years and six months. He was stationed at Parrico at a Marine base.

We women in the Spinning Room don't mind doffing, but we don't like to find nails on bobbins.

Mrs. Percy Coley says that she is not worrying about the sugar shortage. She has plenty of honey.

Here's one on Margie Watkins: Thinking that it was time for work, got up and cooked breakfast, and after getting down to the gate, didn't see anyone. Margie got scared and went home only to find that it was only 2 a.m.





**Help put the lid on Hitler**  
**BY SAVING YOUR**  
**OLD METAL AND PAPER**

# Patriotic Citizens Pitch In

- Community based patriotism led drives to gather supplies the fighting soldiers needed.
- Scrap metal was used for heavy equipment and weapons. Americans contributed church bells, children's toys, old Civil War cannons, iron fence panels, & other items.
- Paper drives ushered in the recycling of paper products to provide the military with the product it needed. Lumber was in short supply so Americans dealt with restrictions on the use of paper.

**YOUR BLOOD  
CAN SAVE HIM**



## Rocky Mount Mills Blood Drive

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1945

### Red Cross Drive Gets Underway In City

The Red Cross Drive is in full swing in Rocky Mount now. Solicitors are in the mill this week asking for contributions. We sincerely hope that everyone will give their whole-hearted support to this grand organization which is doing such a great job all over the world.



What are some of the ways Rufus Jones asks RMM employees and their families to support the Armed Services?

What is it about these particular items/actions that would be helpful?

How does this compare to the ways people today are asked to support the troops?

## Colored Reporter Asks For Cooperation

COLORED NEWS  
By RUFUS JONES

Well folks, here I am with a little more news. We hear lately that the Red Army is still making smashing gains on their way to Berlin and the Americans and Britains are gaining some very important strongholds on several fronts and that sounds very good, doesn't it? Well, since that sounds very good to those of us back here on the home front, why not let us send news that will sound equally as good to our boys and girls in the Armed Services abroad? This good news to them can be in the form of one hundred percent employment, a victory garden, a pig, some chickens, milk and butter, and by going back to our closets and making use of old clothes that might be stored therein and let our boys and girls in the armed forces have the new clothes and by buying every war bond we can. This, of course, will be good news to our boys and girls in service.

# PLANT A VICTORY GARDEN



**OUR FOOD  
IS FIGHTING**

**A GARDEN WILL MAKE YOUR RATIONS GO FURTHER**

## Victory Gardens

- Victory Gardens were planted throughout the United States during World War II to help deal with the food shortages that were taking place.
- Victory Gardens made it possible to use the produce that farmers grew for the soldiers overseas.
- Rationing made the amount of canned food available to a family less than they were used to and Victory Gardens could supplement their vegetable allowance.





# Victory Gardens

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- People planted gardens wherever they could. For those without yards, they used window boxes or apartment roofs.
- Schools even planted crops on their grounds and used the produce for school lunches.
- Examples of food grown in these gardens included beets, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes and peas.
- There were 20,000,000 Victory Gardens that provided 40% of all the vegetables that were grown in America.

## Franklin D. Roosevelt Statement Encouraging Victory Gardens | April 1, 1944

“I hope every American who possibly can will grow a victory garden this year. We found out last year that even the small gardens helped.

The total harvest from victory gardens was tremendous. It made the difference between scarcity and abundance. The Department of Agriculture surveys show that 42 percent of the fresh vegetables consumed in 1943 came from victory gardens. This should clearly emphasize the far-reaching importance of the victory garden program.

Because of the greatly increased demands in 1944, we will need all the food we can grow. Food still remains a first essential to winning the war. Victory gardens are of direct benefit in helping relieve manpower, transportation, and living costs as well as the food problem.”





FIN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1945.

## R WRITES . . .

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### Mill Employees Are Working On Gardens

FINISHING DEPT.

By Margie Watkins And  
Mildred King

Everyone is very glad to have Eula M. Matthews back at work. She has been out for sometime. She says it seems good to be working again.

We wonder why Flora Belle Hardy worked on first shift several days last week.

We know Mel and Joe Jones are very happy now that they have moved to Spring street.

L. H. Wicks of the Navy spent several days with his parents and friends recently.

All of the people who are planning to have a victory garden were very glad to see that rain last week. Now you can see some busy people getting all of those seeds planted which will make the good things to eat during the summer.

Snazzy Notes: Margaret Doles winding again. . . Girls changing hair styles everyday. . . Whistling all the time.

## Victory Gardens in the Mill Village

Imagine working a twelve hour shift at RMM then coming home to tend your Victory Garden!





# War Bonds

- War Bonds provided money for the government to use for the war effort (i.e., paying soldiers and providing uniforms, food, equipment & weapons.)
- War bonds also took cash out of circulation in the economy to slow down inflation.
- The bonds sold at 75% of their value, so you could buy a \$100 war bond for \$75 and in ten years turn it in for the \$100.



## LETTERS FROM MEN IN SERVICE

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Film Actress Rita Hayworth sends greetings to all the boys from the Rocky Mount Mills who are now in service. She is a star with Columbia Studios.

I know quite a few of you mill workers. Although I never worked there I like the paper fine and can

Dear Sir:

Italy  
October 23, 1944

# Purchasing War Bonds

- Citizens on the home front felt it was their patriotic duty to participate in buying war bonds - 134 million Americans did so.
- The government and businesses would sponsor war bond drives as well as stamp drives to raise money for the war effort.
- The "Stars Over America" bond blitz, in which 337 stars took part (including Rita Hayworth) netted \$838,540,000 worth of bonds.

# Rocky Mount Mills exceeded expectations when it came to War Bonds.

## Odell Wood Buying More War Bonds Now

CANTEEN

By Balmerlee Watson

Durell Stancil, AMM, has returned to Boston, Mass., after spending a ten-day leave with his mother, Mrs. Naomi Stancil, of Swelton Heights.

Henry B. Herring has returned to Jacksonville, Fla., after spending a leave with his parents.

Eddie Bone says he has had to give up his "Headline Eddie" name since he hurt his finger, as he has been unable to do anything but nurse his finger. He has been busy singing "I'm Walking the Floor Over You" . . . namely his finger.

Hassel (Happy) Vester is spending a twelve-day furlough with his parents.

The other night in the Twister Room on third shift, there was an awful noise, sounding like a frog croaking. The boys looked around but could find nothing. It was Pee Wee Harris singing.

Happy Whitby has moved from Spring street to 5 W. Elm. Mr. Nick Joyner is still living with him.

Mrs. Martha Hall has returned to work after being out for a rest up. We are very happy to have her back with us.

Gladys Howell is out on account of sickness. We hope to have her back soon.

Odell Wood is getting more patriotic. She felt she wasn't doing enough, so she is having more taken out each week for war bonds.

Mayo Ramsey has been pretty busy with the second shift while Charles Price is taking his vacation. He still stays pretty late at night. He seems to have forgotten how to go to bed at night and waits until day light to see how to go to bed.

Miss Melvane Thomas spent the week-end with her parents in Raleigh.



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ARD, GREELY DAVIS, MILDRED LEE, MARY MOORE, BALMERLEE WATSON, MARY DAVIS, MILDRED KING, JACK HOWELL.

## Finishing Department Backs War Bond Drive

By MARGIE WATKINS AND MILDRED KING

Wilson seems to be the town of interest this week with the fair and all its good times.

Ernest Wood and J. A. Henry are really good partners when it comes to dancing. They were seen doing the old time square dance in front of the elevator Monday.

Ethel Gilbert and Ludie Dudley spent last week in Clinton.

The girls in the finishing department are really "hep to the jive" or "in the groove" when it comes to playing jazz.

The song for the week is "String of Pearls".

The finishing department averaged 100 per cent in the War Fund Drive. We thought the boys would like to know that we are still backing them up and haven't let them down.

Eula Mae Matthews looking for

Mary Davis. But it seems that she has found her a better job as secretary for someone here in town.

## Mill Employees Exceed United War Fund Quota

After a whirlwind campaign of three days, the Rocky Mount Mills, its officers and employees oversubscribed its United War Fund quota of \$3500.00 by \$47.00, turning in to the fund \$3547.00.

Much credit should be given the following persons for their splendid work in soliciting contributions throughout the plant:

Rebecca Harrell, Hattie Denson, Daisy Peele, Margaret Casey, W. A. Price, Joe Gilbert, Henry Rose, Sudie Dudley, Mayo Ramsey, and L. B. Edwards.



# African-American Contributions

“above and beyond the call of duty”



- Over 2.5 million African-Americans registered for the draft in World War II and over a million served, with many of them earning commendations and medals while serving with distinction.
- The **Double V campaign** was a slogan and drive to promote the fight for democracy abroad and within the United States for African Americans during World War II.
- In addition to supporting the war effort in all the ways previously discussed, African Americans also used the opportunity created by job openings to prove their capabilities in positions that were previously unavailable to them.



**Rufus Jones was in charge of the “Colored News,” encouraging African-Americans and sharing news about their contributions.**



Rufus Jones, shown above, has reported the colored news for the paper. He is known to all former employees of the Rocky Mount Mills. (Staff photo).

## **Rufus Jones Advises His Fighting Sons**

**COLORED NEWS**  
By Rufus Jones

Rufus S. was quite a home-loving boy and so was his brother, Willie, who are now in France. They never bothered about traveling until they were called upon by their country to go abroad and offer their services for the cause of democracy. And I say unto them as the Lord said unto David, when he asked permission to go out and fight against the great Goliath. Go and the Lord be with you boys wherever you go. Be faithful in all your duties as I have always taught you, seek to do the right thing as it is pleasing in the sight of God. Now in conclusion, may I say unto both of you boys, as I believe every true father is saying unto his sons, you have the prayer of your father and mother always. May God bless you and enable you to have a speedy return.

Rookie: I used to sleep under a crazy-quilt, sir.

## **COLORED NEWS** By Rufus Jones

Dear fellows, to those of you who have done such a wonderful job and have shown such good spirit in offering your services as a sacrifice unto our country, I hope the time will not be long before you all can return home to your loved ones and I hope everyone of you will find a free and welcome peace in the heart of every good American. I pray that all of you will be made welcome to go abroad and fight for the liberty of the country. I believe you will be made welcome to this end by every good American citizen regardless of race, creed or color, because we can see plainly that you have done a good job and have done it well. Therefore, I am quite sure that when those of you from Rocky Mount Mills or from the vicinity of the city of Rocky Mount return you will find a big welcome and the same good old place to work and the best of all. Some are as good people to work with as can be found on the globe. This is my estimation and I feel free to make this expression about them. In my opinion, they are second to none and may the God of Heaven forever bless them and enable them to keep going forward to even greater success in the future than they have in the past.

## **Rufus S. Jones Is Accepted For Army**

**COLORED NEWS**  
By Rufus Jones

Lee Staton of the canteen was sent to Fort Bragg recently for preinduction examination and was rejected. He was physically fit but rejected for other reasons. Lee says he doesn't care what the other reasons are, all he wants to know is that he has been rejected.

Rufus S. Jones was sent to Fort Bragg and was accepted physically fit for general military services. Rufus says he is glad to know that he is not a 4 F'er and that he may have the honor of serving his country in military service as well as on the home front.

We have started our annual grass cutting convention and are looking forward to a beautiful lawn throughout the Spring and Summer months. We are looking forward to the



# Communication from Home

- It was a big morale boost for the servicemen fighting in World War II to receive information from home, such as in letters or from a copy of The Riverside Bulletin. Generally, letters came from family & friends, but organizations like churches, women's groups and even factories such as Rocky Mount Mills also sent letters.
- Early on, letters were slow to reach the soldiers - space in airplanes could not be sacrificed for mail. Instead, letters made the journey across the oceans in ships and then had to find the recipient on the battle front. As the war progressed this improved.
- Letters from soldiers rarely reflected the horrors of war. Why worry the family back home? Likewise, news from home was kept uplifting to try to motivate the soldiers, giving them a sense of encouragement.





## LETTERS FROM MEN IN SERVICE

November 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Battle,

What does the mill want with Billy goats? Are the people staying off the grass so well that Rufus can't keep it cut? That's the only thing they are good for, to eat grass. I hope Ed Mann isn't going to sell them for hamburgers. Have you ever tried to eat goat? I have and it isn't good. Mutton is bad. Everytime I eat horse meat and hear someone say "Whoa" it comes back up. I don't think the people at home are so bad they need to be punished by eating goats. I still want to know "why does the mill want Billy goats?"

I have gotten all of my mail from England now and I have copies of the BULLETIN for September 13th and 20th and it's still a good "little big paper". Jack Howell has really got some good points and I think all of the boys will agree almost every week he has a few good lines. More power to him.

I hope Bugs is out of bed now and I think Mrs. Barringer is right by saying mail keeps up the morale on the homefront as well as the battlefront. I know I always welcomed mail but there were times when I couldn't get stationery and that's a big problem over there now because I've had a few letters from my outfit written on German stationery. If they don't write that is the reason.

We worry about our people as much as they worry about us. There isn't a boy in the services that gets a letter from home who will keep it to himself. He will tell someone about it. If you want to help their morale, let one person start a letter and ask the boy's friends to add a few lines and sign their names. Don't stop with just 3 or 4 names. Soon after I left France I got a letter from the boys in my outfit with 20 or more names and did it help. Well, did you ever get lost when you were a small tot and the feeling you had at the sight of your mother? Well, mail is something like that.

...all of the gold bricks in the Army, but Mr. Henry and Ed still do a little goldbricking. Save one of those "Cokes" for me.

I would like to have Cpl. Elwood Long's address so I could tell him that this is not a furlough and I haven't been home yet and I will be glad to trade places with him. He read that copy of the BULLETIN wrong. I had a letter from Melvin Insko last week and he is doing fine.

Tell the people to keep up the good work. They need cotton on the battlefield and hospitals too. There is a lot of cotton used in the services. It would take a lot of space to name the use of cotton equipment.

Ginny Simms was here last week and can she sing! She had the good looks too. I talked with her and she wanted me to say hello and send



Miss Irene Carter turned the table had him looking at the Lirdie instead pinup picture. She is the attractive and Mrs. R. C. Carter of 4 West Elm's finishing department. (Photo by Bar

really a nice girl.

I'm getting along fine and I still have a chance of coming home for Christmas. I'm getting the best of everything. I have six inches below my knee unless my knee joint is stiff. I'll have a good stump. Give my best regards and say hello for me.

JOHNNIE MATTHEWS

### Grace Mathis Comes To Work Without Shoes

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
By NANNIE TRIPLETT

Grace Mathis surely is in a bad fix. She was running around in the waste mill in her stocking feet.

## Communication from Home

- Hyman L. Battle, who was the Treasurer and Manager of Rocky Mount Mills (and a veteran of World War I) knew the importance of the Riverside Bulletin for the soldiers and the folks on the home front.
- He encouraged soldiers to write letters so they could be shared with everyone.
- Soldiers looked forward to letters from anyone just to boost morale and keep up with news back home.

S-SGT. JOHNNIE E. DAVIS

Somewhere in the Pacific  
Thursday, Nov. 16, 1944

Dear Sirs:

I want to say a word of thanks for your thoughtfulness for sending me your paper from the mill as it sure has some very interesting news that we don't get to hear out here. I'm not a resident of Rocky Mount but I'm married to one of the Leonard girls and while I was stationed at New River I visited your town quite often and got to make lots of good friends there, so you see once in awhile I know some of these people you write about in your paper.

So again I say thanks and try to keep the Bulletin coming if possible and when I'm able to get back stateside again, I'd like to visit the mill just to see what process cotton goes through. It must be quite interesting.

Say hello to all the Leonard family for me there. They're swell people.

Sincerely yours,  
SGT. WILLIAM D. HAIG

Sunday, Nov. 5, 1944

Dear Sir:

received several of your pa-



# FROM MEN IN SERVICE

## TO PRIVATE MARVIN F. NELMS



Somewhere in the European Theatre of Operations is Pvt. Marvin F. Nelms who has never seen his young son, Master Ned Thomas Nelms. We hope this picture of his wife, Utha, and his young son, will bring him happiness. Pvt. Nelms will also receive a copy of the above picture in the near future. Pvt. Nelms was formerly employed by Rocky Mount Mills. Photo by Baringer.

September 10, 1944

ed with him and thought that he was a nice fellow.

Dear Sir:

How does soldier  
William Earl, a  
former RMM  
employee, feel  
about receiving  
news from home  
while stationed  
in Germany?

How do you  
imagine  
Marvin  
Nelms felt to  
finally see a  
picture of his  
new-born  
son?

Kempton, Germany  
3 August 1945

Dear Friends,

Just a few lines to say hello and let you know how much I appreciate your paper, The Riverside Bulletin. It is really a swell little paper and it gives just the news from home which all the boys like to hear most. I'm getting mine regular and it only takes eight or ten days for it to reach me. I'm always looking forward for my copy. The pineups are really good. There are still plenty of good looking ladies in good old Rocky Mount or, I should say, at the mill. I see where some of the boys have returned for furloughs and some have received their discharges. I'm sure glad to see the boys start going home. Since my friend, Clarence Paris, has received his discharge I guess he will start right where he left off—working for you. He is really a swell guy. I hope to be with him in the near future. My division, the 80th, is supposed to return to the States in December so I'm hoping to be on a furlough at Christmas. If I do, it will be my first time at home for Christmas in three years. We may hit the Japs since we are rated the second best division over here in the E. T. O. So I'm closing and saying thanks a million for the swell paper.

A former employee,  
WILLIAM EARL

# Restrictions On Letters

- Censorship was a common practice with corresponding letters. Just in case the mail was captured by the enemy, vital information was protected from falling into the wrong hands.
- Before a soldier's letter was sent home, his commanding officer would read it to protect against the sharing of troop movements, locations and strength of forces.
- The military would send a telegram home if a soldier was wounded but would give little information on their condition. A letter from a husband or son saying they were alive and well was of great comfort.





# The End of World War II & the Riverside Bulletin

- As with most factories in the United States, when the war came to a close, men were given their jobs back.
- Many women went back to their previous lives, but having proven themselves and new opportunities were available for some.

**Kermit Paris's** family worked in RMM for 5 generations, with him starting as a 15 year old in 1942. Listen to [Kermit Paris](#) (12:39-15:13) as he discusses hearing about the bombing of Pearl Harbor, entering the service & the end of the war.

