

LIFE IN EUROPE AFTER THE WAR

1. Briefly describe Karl Straus' job after WWII.
2. How did General Patton seem to feel about DeNazification?
3. Why were people like Asheville's Jesse Ray needed in Europe following the war?
4. For whom were Displaced Persons Camps created?
5. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: What happened to displaced Russian Jews after the war? Why were Stalin's actions toward Jewish members of the Soviet Union not met with the same opposition as the actions taken by the Nazis?

RESUMING LIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA

6. Name three major changes in American life sparked by the events of WWII?
7. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Read Barney Gray's story. What did Barney feel that "all that was settled now" when he returned from the war? What emotions do you think he and other African American soldiers experienced upon returning to a country still ruled by Jim Crow laws?

Panel Vocabulary

Perfunctory: routine, lacking in interest or enthusiasm

Repatriate: to admit someone back into their home country, or to send someone back to their homeland against their will



The Center for Diversity Education

STUDENT ACTIVITY GUIDE

1. Read the opening quotes from WNC Veterans on the introduction panel of the exhibit. Reflect on the varied responses to being involved in WWII.
2. Why do you think the people interviewed for this project and their peers are referred to as "The Greatest Generation"?
3. Why do you think some people were unwilling to participate in this exhibit project?
4. Why were some people eager to participate, in your opinion?

Title Panel Vocabulary

Xenophobia: fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign.

Anti-Semitism: hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group

WORLDWIDE CLIMATE OF HATRED

1. Name one reason for the election of Nazi leadership in Germany after World War I.
 2. This panel mentions many forms of hatred and discrimination in the US as well as in Germany. What groups of people were often sterilized as a part of the American School of Eugenics, even in North Carolina?
 3. **DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:** What comes to your mind when you think of Henry Ford? In your opinion, was he a positive contributor to American Society?
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IMPACT OF WAR IN EUROPE ON WNC

4. Why did Americans begin making cigarette paper in the US after 1938?
 5. Where was one of the first American cigarette paper manufacturing plants?
 6. Why did Joseph and Anni Albers, the first art instructors at Black Mountain College, flee Germany?
 7. **DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:** Read about how Asheville residents, the Lichtenfels, saved the lives of many friends and family members. Do you think this was a difficult task? What you be willing to take on such a task?
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Panel Vocabulary

Weimar Republic: German government from 1919-1933 named after the site of creation of a new constitution after the German empire was abolished in WWI.

Eugenics: study of human heredity manipulation by controlled selective breeding

Affidavit: a sworn statement in writing made under oath before an authorized magistrate. (The document made the signer responsible for the signee.)

Black Mountain College: opened from 1933-1953 in Black Mountain, NC, as legendary college owned and operated by its faculty and founded on John Dewey's principals of education, democratic governance, and the arts.

NURSES IN THE MILITARY

1. Approximately how many women joined the military during WWII?
 2. What was the general attitude of the women interviewed about serving as nurses in WWII?
 3. **DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:** Read the information about the choices for women in the military who became pregnant and were not married. What are your thoughts about these rules?
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THE MARINE CORPS

4. Why did the Marine Corps have such a strong presence in the South Pacific?
 5. What was the bloodiest battle in the history of the Marine Corps?
 6. Read the story of the former chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation, Robert Youngdeer. List one thing that you think was amazing or miraculous about his experience at Guadalcanal.
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ATOMIC WARFARE

7. How much money did the US government spend on developing the Atomic Bomb?
 8. Read about June Lamb's job in 1950. How long did people in Japan continue to die from radioactive fallout?
 9. **DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:** People in WNC and all over the world have varying opinions about the need to use the atomic bomb and the consequent affects. Since studying WWII, what are your personal thoughts?
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Panel Vocabulary

Obstetrics: field of medicine managing pregnancy and childbirth

Rising Sun: flag of Japan

Old Glory: flag of the US

Fallout: the slow decent of tiny particles of debris or nuclear material in the atmosphere following an explosion

QUARTERMASTERS

1. What was a “C” ration?
 2. How was a “K” ration different from a “C” ration?
 3. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Why do you think cigarettes were so important to many soldiers?
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ENGINEERS

4. What were the jobs of the Army Engineers according to George Gash?
 5. Who were “Smokey Joes”, and what was their primary job?
 6. What was a major flaw with smoke screens?
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RED BALL EXPRESS

7. What was the purpose of the Red Ball Express?
 8. What percentage of the Red Ball Express were African American soldiers?
 9. What were some of the dangers faced by this group in their missions?
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Panel Vocabulary

Quartermaster: an officer responsible for food, clothing, and equipment of troops

Friendly Fire: accidentally firing guns or dropping bombs on one’s own soldiers

PEARL HARBOR

1. Why were Americans so surprised to experience a Japanese attack on home soil?
 2. Do you have any family members who were present during the attack on Pearl Harbor? Read Vernon Branson’s story about his experience on Sunday, December 7, 1940. Might your family member have had a similar experience?
 3. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Do you agree with Roosevelt’s decision to declare war on Germany and Japan on December 8, 1940?
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INTERNMENT CAMP AT MONTREAT

4. Who were the people housed at the Montreat internment camp?
 5. What happened to Japanese civilian men who were initially held with their families as non-combatant enemies in Montreat, NC?
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ASHEVILLE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

6. What were three ways the federal government had a presence in Asheville before and during the war?
 7. Why did the US Army choose to move the Weather Wing to Asheville’s City Hall during WWII?
 8. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Have you seen the building in the photograph? Where is it? What takes place there now?
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THE MEDIA, GOVERNMENT, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

1. Study the pictures on the page. Describe how the government and media worked to “demonize the enemy.”
2. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Think about the ways the media continues to shape our perceptions. What are some examples of media images you have noticed related to the current wars in the Middle East?

THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY

3. Where were the most important works of art from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC stored during WWII?
4. Why did the gallery director want to move the pieces during the war?

RECYCLING

5. What was the reason for the first recycling program in the US?
6. What price was charged for the 1,100 tons of metal the Asheville City Council sold to the Metals Reserve Company?
7. Study the photo at the bottom of the page. What monument was removed from Pack Square in Asheville and melted in order to aid the war effort?

Panel Vocabulary

Galvanize: to stimulate into action or to startle

Repository: a facility where things are deposited for storage or safekeeping or a collection of resources that can be accessed to retrieve information

Scarcity: having a small and inadequate amount

INFANTRY (2 PANELS)

1. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Read Andy Andrews’ account of his D Day invasion experience. Reflect upon what it would have been like to have that experience yourself. Can you imagine why some D Day veteran are unable to discuss their personal experiences from the war?
2. What were many troops suffering from by the time the Battle of the Bulge began?
3. Why would some US soldiers invade civilian homes and throw out the residents?
4. What was the problem with George Lamprinakos’ training for WWII?
5. Why did Rob Roberts think that the news of the atomic bomb was simply propaganda?
6. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Why would German soldiers rather be captured by American troops as POW’s than by Russian troops?

THE NAVY

7. Why was Clifford Longcoy assigned to be a sonar man during WWII?
8. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Read the box on the right about Kamikaze warfare. Discuss your thoughts about this philosophy.
9. Why was Walter Kreamer awarded the Navy Cross?

Panel Vocabulary

Coxswain: the person in charge of a boat, particularly in its navigation or steering

Hedgerows: a row of trees and bushes forming a hedge

Commandeer: to seize for military use, to take by force

Billeting: the place to which a person, particularly a soldier, is assigned to sleep

POW, PACIFIC THEATER

1. Describe the conditions that Walter, Wayne, and 70,000 other people experienced on the Bataan Death March.
2. What was the cause of death of Jacob Cornsilk, a soldier from the Cherokee Nation, at Camp O'Donnell?
3. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: President Roosevelt ordered General McArthur to leave his troops on the peninsula of Bataan to go to Australia, at which point all of the Bataan supplies were sent to Australia. The Bataan soldiers were left to scavenge for food and no longer had proper weaponry and aircrafts. Do you think it was ethical for a US President and a US General to make such a decision?

POW, EUROPEAN THEATER

4. About how many people from Western North Carolina were Prisoners of War during WWII?
5. From which division of the armed forces were most POWs?
6. Describe the conditions in the Stalag Luft 3, one of the German POW camps.

INTELLIGENCE

7. What were code-breakers encouraged to do with their papers if someone broke into their offices?
 8. What was the name of the unit that began the Special Forces?
 9. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Why was it important to have German speaking people, like John Rosenthal, working with an Intelligence Unit?
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CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1. Name three jobs that children in Western North Carolina did to help with the war effort.
2. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: What is the role of American youth in current wars and/or conflicts? What roles do youth play in other countries around the world during wartime?

THE GROVE PARK INN

3. After the attack on Pearl Harbor the Grove Park Inn in Asheville was used as temporary housing for diplomats from Axis countries. What were two other major uses for the Inn during the war?
4. What local camp was used by the federal government to hold German officers who were prisoners of war?

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

5. What does it mean to be a conscientious objector?
6. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Read Charles Hendricks' story. Why do you think the salesperson in Marion refused to sell him anything?

Panel Vocabulary

War Bonds: a form of a savings bond to help fund the war effort (Americans would make an investment in the Federal Government war fund and receive interest.)

Rationing: controlling and limiting the use of consumption of something scarce or rare

Diplomat: someone involved in conducting negotiations between groups, often directing international relations with regard to culture, peace, economics, trade, and war

Pacifist: someone opposed to violence or war as a means of settling disputes

AMERICAN RED CROSS

1. Name at least 3 services provided by the American Red Cross during WWII.
 2. What were the first two schools in Asheville to have 100% participation in Junior Red Cross fund raising during WWII?
 3. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: The two aforementioned schools were segregated schools for African American students. In 1943 many Jim Crow laws still ruled the land. Do you see any significance in the fact that these two particular schools were the first to fulfill Red Cross fundraising efforts?
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THE HOLOCAUST

4. What was the goal of the Nazi party's "Final Solution"?
 5. Name at least 4 different groups of people targeted by the Nazis.
 6. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Read Walter Ziffer's story. Reflect upon his last quote, "What does one do after a slavery experience."
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FONTANA DAM

7. Fontana Dam was built primarily to supply electricity for the production of *what* for WWII?
 8. The dam's power was also needed for a secret government project in a town surrounded by a fence and armed guards. What was the name of the town?
 9. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: In order to build electricity-producing dams towns, villages, and homes are often flooded. What, in your opinion, are the pros and cons of dam building? Does one outweigh the other?
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THE USO

1. What activities were offered to servicemen at USOs?
 2. What building in Asheville served as the USO for African American service people?
 3. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Why do you think USOs were important for both men and women during WWII?
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COMMUNICATION

4. What was the most common communication method for soldiers to use with friends and family during WWII?
 5. How were people able to accurately send mail to troops even though they often changed locations?
 6. DISCUSSION/REFLECTION: Why did the government censor mail to the troops? DO you agree or disagree with this practice?
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ARMY AIR CORPS

7. What was the most significant accomplishment of Robert Morgan's crew on the Memphis Belle?
 8. Although the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American pilots to serve in the Army Air Corps, escorted a record 200 missions without a loss, how many of their own pilots were killed or captured?
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Panel Vocabulary

Canteen: a snack bar or recreational facility where refreshments are available

Censor: to examine material and remove parts that are considered to be harmful or improper for transmission

Attrition Rate: shrinking in size, reduction in personnel due to death, capture or injury
