

# Chapter 15 – Section 3

Women During the War



# Rosie the Riveter

- A fictional character from a song who goes to work in a defense plant while her man is away at war
- **Used by the Govt. to recruit women to the work force during the war**
- **She represents patriotism and doing your part to help the war effort**





# Married Women

- **Before the war most disapproved of married women working**
- Seen as taking jobs away from men, especially during the Depression



# Before the War

- Used to only have jobs as **teachers, nurses, sales clerks** or **household servants**
- Received **lower pay than men**



# Better Paying Jobs

- **Manufacturing jobs** that paid more \$ opened up to women, particularly in the defense industries
- **Worked on airplanes and shipyards as riveters, steelworkers, and welders**





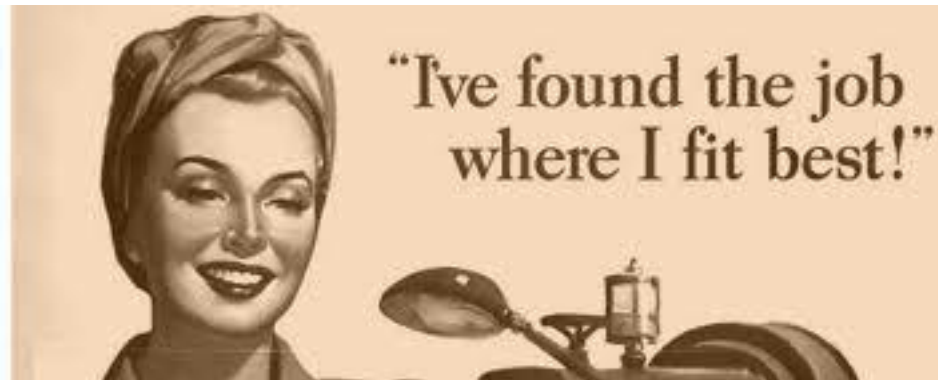
# Dramatic Increase

- 5 million more older & married women worked outside the home during the war
- The Office of War Information actively recruited them saying it was **their “patriotic duty”**



# Why Women Enjoyed working

- Earned more \$ to pay off debts from Depression
- More interesting & challenging than staying at home
- Patriotic reasons – helping “brings my sons home quicker”



# African American Women

- Unlike white women, many **already had to work**
- Mostly as **house servants**
- **Fought discrimination** (through lawsuits and protests) **to get jobs in factories** like white women during the war





# Challenges

- Managers often **treated** them **unfairly** (could be **fired** for “**socializing**”)
- **Daycare was limited** – left kids with relatives
- Received **less pay for same work as men**
- **Didn't advance** quickly because had less seniority since they hadn't worked before

**WANTED!**



**FOR MURDER**

*Her careless talk costs lives*

# Back to the Kitchen

- Govt. assumed **women would leave their jobs when the war ended and things would be just like they used to be**
- **Many did not want to** – it felt good to do something besides just “cook a meal”



# Returning Servicemen

- **Expected to get their jobs back**
- **Wanted the kind of family life they had known before the war with a wife “in the kitchen”**





# Help Wanted

- Imagine you are a defense industry employer during WWII
- You are looking for women to work in your airplane plant or shipyard to work as riveters, steelworkers, and/or welders
- In your advertisement you need to make this job sound as appealing as possible because your factory is shorthanded and really needs the workers
- Be sure to mention all of the benefits of this job including: **better pay, more excitement and challenge than staying at home and being patriotic and “doing your part”**

# Assignment

- Imagine you are a married woman who has been working in a factory during the war.
- **Write a ½ to 1 page letter** to a relative explaining what your experience has been like and how you feel about going back to “your old life” now that the war is over. Make sure you use at least 5 facts from the notes and underline them.