

Ration Books & Victory Gardens

What was Rationing? Rationing was a system that provided everyone with the same amount of scarce goods. The system was designed to keep prices low and to make sure people had what they needed.

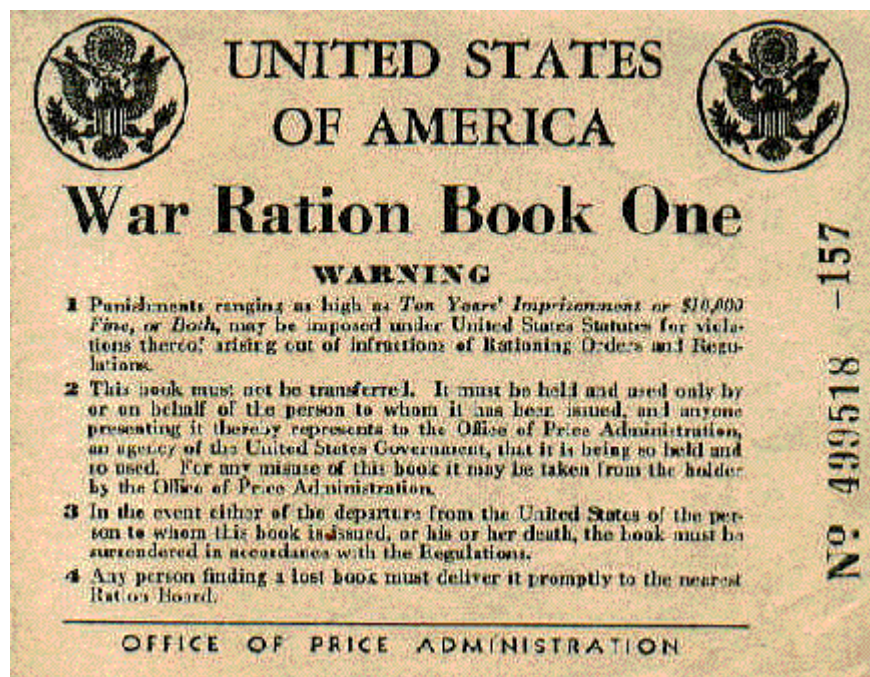
Some things were scarce because they were needed to supply the military - gas, oil, metal, meat and other foods, for example. Some things were scarce because they normally were imported from countries with whom we were at war or because they had to be brought in by ship from foreign places. Sugar and coffee were very scarce. They didn't make Coca-Cola during the war because sugar was so scarce. Other things disappeared entirely as well, like silk stockings. New things were made of wood instead of metal or rubber.



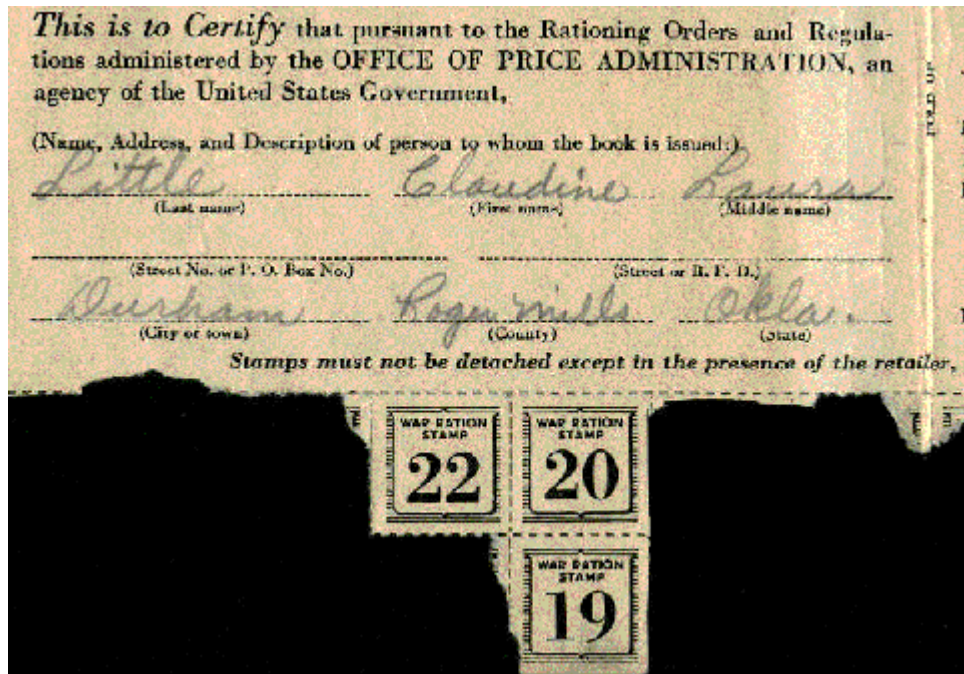
Claudine Laura and
Marvin Little

But rationing made sure no one went hungry. Everyone was given a ration book. Each book had a bunch of ration stamps in it. Grocers and other business people would post what your ration stamps could buy that week. It was up to you to decide how to spend your stamps.

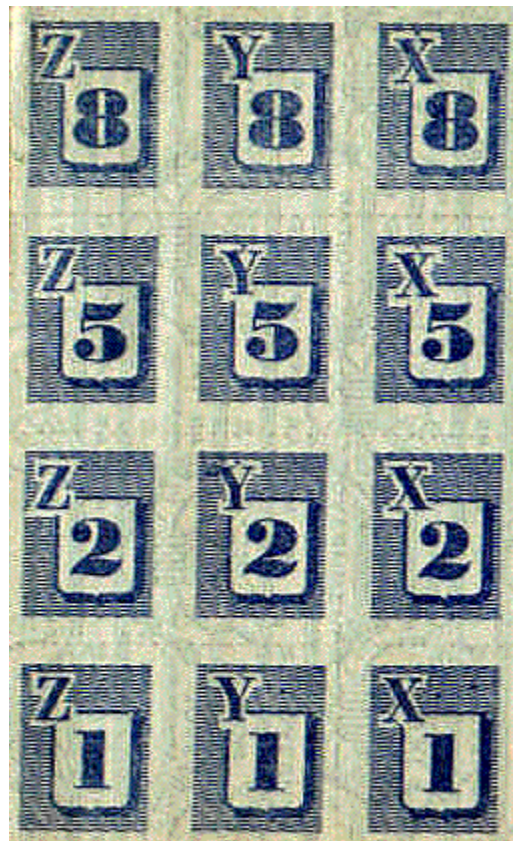
Ration books became a way of life for everyone at home during World War II. Ration books were about the size of a postcard. Each one was filled with ration stamps. Ration stamps themselves were very small. It would take two ration stamps to be about the same size as a modern 32 cents postage stamp. Although tiny in size, ration stamps packed a whollop. You had to have ration stamps to buy things at the store. It still cost money, but you couldn't even buy it unless you had stamps. Here is a close-up picture of real ration stamps.



Ration Book of Claudine Laura Russell Price Little (F.R. Bob Price Collection)



Ration Stamps, (F.R. Bob Price Collection)



Coded Ration Stamps (F.R. Bob Price Collection)

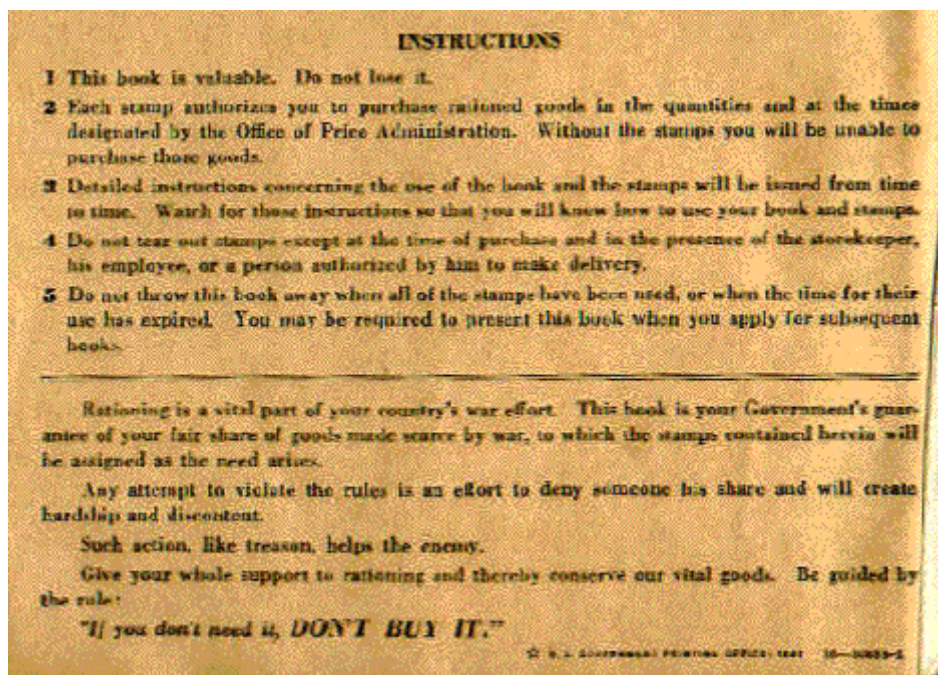
Instructions:

1. This book is valuable. Don't lose it.
2. Each stamp authorizes you to purchase rationed goods in the quantities and at the times designated by the Office of Price Administration. Without the stamps you will be unable to purchase these goods.
3. Detailed instructions concerning the use of the book and the stamps will be issued. Watch for those instructions so that you will know how to use your book and stamps. Your Local War Price and Rationing Board can give you full information.
4. Do not throw this book away when all of the stamps have been used, or when the time for their use has expired. You may be required to present this book when you apply for subsequent books. Rationing is a vital part of your country's war effort. Any attempt to violate the rules is an effort to deny someone his share and will create hardship and help the enemy.

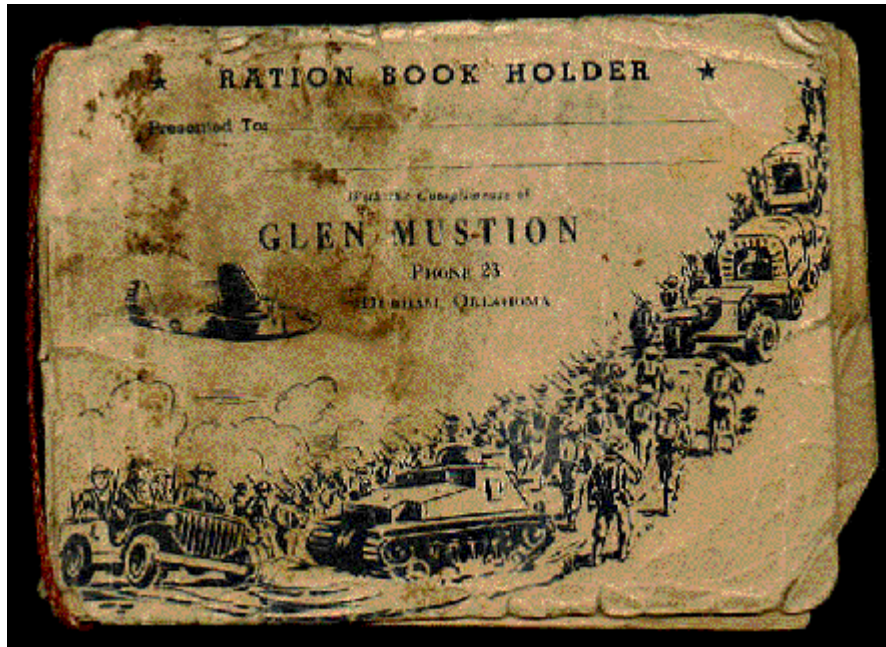
This book is your Government's assurance of your right to buy your share of certain goods made scarce by war. Price ceilings have also been established for your protection. Dealers must post these prices conspicuously. Don't pay more.

Give your whole support to rationing and thereby conserve our vital goods. Be guided by the rule: "If you don't need it, DON'T BUY IT."

US Government Printing Office 1943



Ration Book Instructions (F.R. Bob Price Collection)



Ration Book Envelope Front (F.R. Bob Price Collection)



Ration Book Envelope Back (F.R. Bob Price Collection)

What Was a Victory Garden?

Victory gardens were vegetable gardens planted during the world wars to ensure an adequate food supply for civilians and troops. Government agencies, private foundations, businesses, schools, and seed companies all worked together to provide land, instruction, and seeds for individuals and communities to grow food.

From California to Florida, Americans plowed backyards, vacant lots, parks, baseball fields, and schoolyards to set out gardens. Children and adults fertilized, planted, weeded, and watered in order to harvest an abundance of vegetables.

Colorful posters and regular feature articles in newspapers and magazines helped to get the word out and encouraged people to stick with it. The goal was to produce enough fresh vegetables through the summer for the immediate family and neighbors. Any excess produce was canned and preserved for the winter and early spring until next year's victory garden produce was ripe.

Throughout the World War II years, millions of victory gardens in all shapes and sizes--from window boxes to community plots--produced abundant food for the folks at home. While the gardens themselves are now gone, posters, seed packets and catalogs, booklets, photos and films, newspaper articles and diaries, and people's memories still remain to tell us the story of victory gardens.

Gardening for Victory

along the  **Santa Fe**



Soon travelers will be seeing plots of beets, beans, tomatoes, corn and other needed vegetables "coming along" on both sides of our tracks.

For once again Santa Fe has made its right-of-way available to its employees for Victory Gardens.

We are also offering \$2720.00 in War Bonds to our best Victory Gardeners as an added incentive toward helping "Food Fight for Freedom."

Located as we are "Along the Route to Tokyo," Santa Fe people throughout our 13,093 miles of track can "feel" this war. They are working full hours to move along the never-ending loads of guns, tanks, men and munitions.

Perhaps that's another reason why they're not only working harder on their railroad jobs, but are pretty fine War Bond buyers and Victory Gardeners as well.

It's Santa Fe all the way for the U.S.A.!

SANTA FE SYSTEM LINES
Serving the West and Southwest

1433

Santa Fe Railroad Victory Garden Ad (F.R. Bob Price Collection)

