



## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

The WWII Heritage Outreach Program is one of over 30 individual educational programs offered by the Army National Guard to schools. Each presentation is designed to enhance and support your efforts in the classroom while meeting core curriculum standards. There is no charge or commitment for any of these programs. For more information, please visit [elschoolprograms.com](http://elschoolprograms.com) where you can make an online request for the program in your school.



The Army National Guard

**YOUR PARTNER IN EDUCATION**

## WWII HERITAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

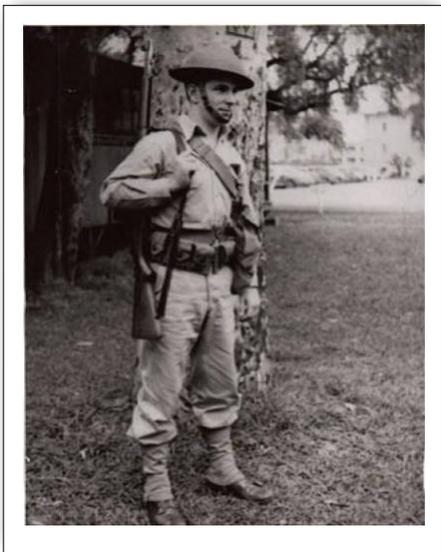
### OVERVIEW OF THE WAR

- AMERICA ENTERS THE CONFLICT
- ON THE HOME FRONT
- CHOW: WHAT THE SOLDIERS ATE
- V MAIL: STAYING IN TOUCH WITH THE FOLKS BACK HOME

# OVERVIEW: WORLD WAR II

## THE NATION MOBILIZES

At the outbreak of WWII in 1941, many National Guard units were already mobilized for training and stationed in preparation for war around the world. The National Guard consisted of 18 divisions which saw combat in both the Pacific and European theaters. National Guardsmen were in the fight from the beginning of the war. Three National Guard units participated in the heroic defense of Bataan in the Philippines before finally surrendering to the Japanese in the spring of 1942. The National Guard participated in every major campaign during the war.



## WHAT THE SOLDIERS ATE CHOW !



There was no substitute for Mom's cooking but the Army did its very best to provide a solid diet for its fighting men and women. This was no small task as soldiers in close contact with the enemy could not sit down to have a normal meal. The Army developed a variety of rations that soldiers could eat in the field, without cooking and under any condition. The most common rations served were the K ration and the C ration. The C ration was the preferred food in the field as it offered a variety of food items served in cans that could be heated up by putting the cans in hot water for a few minutes. It was the original fast food.

## BUY WAR BONDS!

## DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!

## V MAIL

WWII uprooted millions of men and women from their homes, families and everything that was familiar to them. Separations lasted for months, in many cases years; yet throughout the entire experience, people used the mail to stay in touch with those they loved, to share their thoughts, feelings and emotions. The postal system was the slender thread between over there and over here.

The military knew the importance of mail and went to great lengths to ensure that it was sent with speed and regularity. This was the aim in mind when the government devised the V mail system to increase the capacity of mail being sent while minimizing the space needed for transport.

